THE TABLOID **Bridget Jones** offers sexual healing



THE TABLOID Peter Hall: my debut at the Old Vic



COMMENT The girls in the band PAGE 17





The Ministry of Incompetence

500 BSE-riddled cows fester undergound while officials dither

Buried cows tell no tales. Which is a into the water supply. BSE-infected pity, because there are 500 of them buried under this landfill site, near Burniev in Lancashire. If only dead BSE-infected cows could talk, they might explain what has been going on at the up for the past seven years. Have they been polluting the water? Could infective bovine spongiform encephalopathy prions have been passed

to people or animals in the area? Certainly, a dead cow could not do worse job of explaining it than the humans who are supposed to know did vesterday. In the world of BSE, trying to find out any fresh fact is a slow, circular process that usually ends in frustration. And at the centre you always find the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff). A year of the beef crisis, and its links with 13 human deaths, have not changed that.

In 1990 a local paper, the Burnley Express, revealed that BSE-infected cattle were being buried at the Rowley site. Councillors were horrified. Action was demanded. None was taken.

But although the heads of the cat-

infective agent, might leach into the water supply via the rivers, and from there dealy woke up to the infection risk:

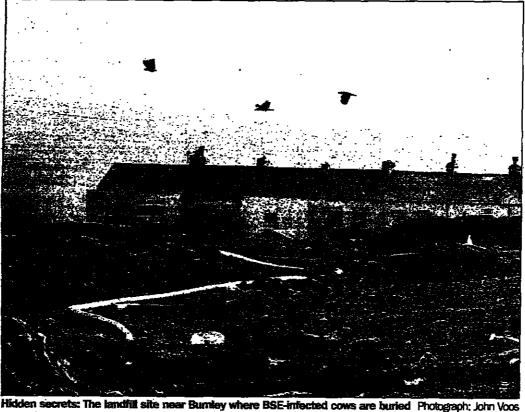
But before that, 6,117 cattle were buried. Yesterday morning, I asked the Maff press office if it could confirm that there were BSE carcasses at the Rowley tip. "That information isn't held centrally," the spokeswoman said.

I called Burnley District Council.

Did the environmental health officers know anything about the possible leaching from the site? "I think that tip is handled by Lancashire County Council," the man said.

I called Lancashire County Council. The environmental health team was not sure if there were BSE carcasses in the tip. I should speak to the council's regional veterinary manager. So, did he know if there were BSE car-

casses at the tip? He pondered briefly. "In the early days of the BSE epi-demic the procedure wasn't so refined," he said. "But the carcasses were licensed to go to specific destinations. So yes, there would be records of movements. I think Maff would know that. the had been removed before burial. Have you tried their offices in Tolthe spinal cords and spleen remained. worth? ... Ask for the BSE section."



Scenting progress, I called the Maff of-fices in Tolworth and asked for the BSE section. "Ah," they said. "Have you spoken to the press office?" Yes, I had, "I'll get right back," said the spokeswoman.

That was two hours ago. And I still do not know what the cattle buried 10 foot down in a landfill in Lancashire have been doing for seven years. Maybe Maff does. But if so, it is as silent about it, as silent as a headless cow.

The Meat Hygiene Service was set up in controversial circumstances nearly two years ago as an agency under the auspices of Maff to replace the meat inspection service of local authorities. At the time, the Institution of Environmental Health Officers said the change was less accountable to consumers.

Ann Foster of the Scottish Consumers Council, one of only two independent members of the Meat she did not know if this had been done.

Hygiene Service board, said she had raised concerns with the chairman of the board about issues such as dirty cattle last November. She said: "There isn't any definition of what constitutes dirty cattle. If they just have one patch of faeces, should they be rejected?" Mrs Foster said that the MHS had planned to send photographs of dirty cattle to all vets but

Inspectors warned of potential timebomb

Anthony Bevins and Christian Wolman

A warning that there was a "po-tential timebomb" of declining standards in Britain's abattoirs brought an angry reaction from nisters yesterday, with John Major and colleagues closing

ranks to attack the messenger. The front-line warning was defrom the Association of Meat Inspectors to Angela Browning, Minister of State for Agriculture, and the official Ment Hygiene Service.

Just weeks before the Prime Minister assured the Commons that action had been taken to clean up the slaughterhouses, Mrs Browning was told by the AMI: "Our levels of enforcement in bygiene at present leave much to be

"Present legislation is adequate to improve hygiene, but the will to enforce is sadly lacking. Faecal con-

E.coli, needs to be far more rigor ously controlled - without delay. John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "That's very serious

in view of the fact that Mr Hogs in the House last week was make ing it absolutely clear that standards were good and improving and the Meat Hygiene Service was on top of the job.

inspectors makes it clear not only that that is not so, but that min-

isters knew that weeks ago."
When Tony Blain, in Prime Minister's Questions, called for an inquiry, Mr Blair said the letters showed that contrary to what the House had been told, contamination was getting worse, not better.

While that demand was accepted by Mr Major, in exchanges marked by their unusually constructive nature, he pointed out the inspectors' responsibilities for en-

$\left(a+\frac{1}{N}\right)\left\langle 1\right| \frac{1}{9\left(Na+1\right)}+Z\sqrt{\frac{1}{9\left(Na+1\right)}}$ = a false alarm

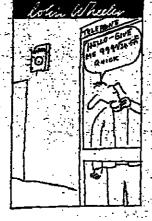
Once upon a time the jangling sound of a burglar alarm would have precipitated the plodding arrival of a beat bobby. Now it is the subject of a mathemati-cally based police investigation of Pythagorean proportions.

Angered by the enormous waste of resources caused by I million fake alarm calls a year, the Association of Chief Police Officers has turned to the services of a statistician to identity inefficient alarm installers.

The fiendishly complicated piece of algebra he has devised ishown above) is said to be virmally infallible and could resolutionise British policing.

By entering the number of false alarms into the equation, police believe they can nab rogue installers. But the pro-

Almost all false alarms are pc lice's "four strikes and you're "spiracy to improve the income of it" rule. Yet if an installer has of my psychiatrist."



an unusually high number of talse signals, police say they will refuse to work with the firm. Nigel Craig, of Eurotech Se-

curity Systems in north London, complained to the Met after reposal has triggered a Klanon of caiving an explanation of the disapproval from the burglar formula. I have not got the foggiest as to what you are talking about I can only assume either some people have nothing betcaused by users, who can all some people have nothing bet-ready be blacklisted under the ter to do or this is part of a con-

Aids doctor struck off The doctor at the centre of an Aids scare was yesterday struck off the medical register following his admission that he did not have an HIV test for eight months after an ex-lover warned he was at risk. Page 5

FO Albania warning All British nationals in Albama were urged to leave by the Foreign Office yesterday, as the re-bellion spread to the north of the country. Between 80 and 100 Butons are thought to be working in northern Albania. Page 12

Jails full to the brim Prisons in England and Wales are "full to the brim and can accept no more", the Prison Governors' Association told the Home Office yesterday. It also emerged that the Prison Service accepts that it will almost certainly have to use expensive police cells in the next two to three

Bookies' bonanza Thousands descended on Chel-

Bundesbank admits EMU fudge possible

Yvette Cooper

Senior officials of Germany's central bank insisted yesterday that European Monetary Union should go ahead on time, even if it meant watering down the criteria for membership. The comments come as spec-

the council which governs the

Bundesbank spoke out at sep-

arate events on Monday night.

They said that Emu must go

ahead, even at the price of

fudging the Maastricht criteria.

ulation reaches fever pitch in financial markets and official circles that monetary union will have to be postponed. A delay would delight British opponents of the single currency, but would severely dent the European Union's credibility. In an attempt to quell the speculation, three members of

tenham yesterday, for the start

of the annual National Hunt Festival. With unseasonally warm weather, bookies were set for a

over Emu. Until recently, the Bundesbank has been the voice of fiscal rectitude, urging strict adherence to the limits set by Maastricht. The treaty says that states must keep their budget deficit below 3 per cent of GDP if they are to enter a single currency. The alternative, the gnomes of Frankfurt argued, was chaos and instability for Eu-

rope's brand new bank hote.

Now the same people are go-Germany's debate, page 11

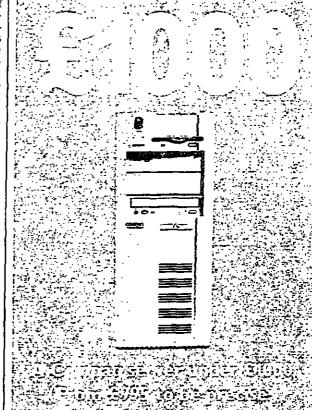
ing soft on the euro. "The 3 per cent deficit criterion should not be a knock-out criterion, declared Ernst Welteke, a member of the Bundesbank's Central Council.

colleagues said the alternative to moving the goalposts would be postponement. This prospect was too horrible to contemplate, bookies were set for a Their statements give a new as it would push up the rwist to the unfolding debate Sport, pages 26 & 28 within Germany's ruling elite goods out of export markets. as it would push up the

fluential figures in the establishment who have come around to the view that the advantages of a delay would out-weigh the disadvantages. Rumours of a delay to the sin-

gle currency have been circulating for several weeks. But yesterday's remarks did little to dissipate the confusion in the City. Martin Ely, of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, said: "We're not getting any clear message. Between the so-called wisc men, finance ministers and politicians we're getting confused signals and the market's not sure which way to take it." One theory for the Bundes

bank's candour is that it has come under considerable pressure from the big German banks Mr Welteke and two of his : to calm speculation about delays. Speaking in London yesterday, Jürgen von Hagen, Director of the Bonn-based Centre for European Integration, said: "The Banks and financial industry in Germany are fiercely in favour of Emu going ahead on time."



The new Compaq ProSignia 200 server range starts at an incredible £995 plus VAT. This is the first time that a Compaq server has ever been available for less than £1000. Yet, it is still a server range with all the performance and reliability

features you would expect from Compaq, the No.1 in servers. Naturally, we wanted to tell you about it. Compaq ProSignia 200 servers have Intel Pentium* pentium



processors. For your brochure pack please phone:

Prices are UK Typical Buying Prices and exclusive of VAT at 17.5%.

THE BROADSHEET

Business & City 18-23 Leading Articles 15 THE TABLOID



significant shorts

Roisin McAliskey bail application adjourned

An application for bail by Roisin McAliskey, who is suspected of being involved in IRA terrorist activities, was vesterday adjourned until Friday. Ms McAliskey. 25, the daughter of the former Ulster MP Bernadette Devlin. is being held in Holloway prison in north London as a Category A prisoner and has been warned that she may not be allowed to keep her baby when it is born in two months' time. Her continued detention has enraged human rights

Ms McAliskey is being held pending extradition to Germany where she is wanted in connection with the attempted mortar attack on a British army base in Osnabruck last year. She denies any involvement and has not so far been charged.

Lee Clegg attacked by soldiers

Lee Clegg, the paratrooper who was released after serving four years for the murder of Belfast teenager Karen Reilly, was the victim of a serious assault by two other soldiers, it emerged

Lance Corporal Clegg, who was convicted in 1993 of murdering the 18-year-old joyrider, suffered facial injuries and had a tooth knocked out in the attack at Catterick, North Yorkshire. His solicitor, Simon McKay, said: "He was the victim of a serious assault and has suffered facial injuries which required stitches. The incident, which happened as he was returning to his billet on Saturday night, is being investigated by military police."

One dead in 50-car fog pile-up

One person died and another 13 were seriously injured in a 50-car pile-up in dense fog yesterday, just 24 hours after the carnage on the M42 left three dead and 62 injured. This accident happened on the A19 near Crathorne in North Yorkshire. The first pile-up. happened shortly before 8am as about 15 vehicles, including two lorries, slammed into the back of each other.

Moments later a second pile-up occurred on the northbound-side as motorists slowed to look at the scene. Traffic police pointed to a section of drivers that did not heed the dangerous weather conditions and ended up travelling too fast and too close to one

Boyfriend loses share of lottery win



A lottery winner gained a legal victory yesterday to prevent her former boyfriend getting half her

£1.3m fortune. Lisa Lec. 30 (left) was sued by David Jones, 34, for a share of the windfall she won in April 1995. Two months after she collected her cheque from Camelot, the lottery organisers, the couple split up. Mr Jones, who

successfully applied for legal aid to pursue the case. claimed they had shared

household finances during the 12-year relationship. He was left to survive on £64 a week social security money after the relationship ended, Cardiff County Court was told. But in her evidence Miss Lee insisted she bought the winning ticket with her own cash and never regarded him as her partner. Judge Hywel Moseley rejected Mr Jones's case and said he did not find his claims credible. He is to give a full judgment at a later date.

Evans snubs radio award ceremony

Chris Evans, the ex-Radio 1 DJ, snubbed a prestigious awards fellow broadcaster Danny Baker and the footballer Paul Gascoigne. Evans, 30, was due to accept his trophy for Radio Personality of the Year at the Grosvenor House Hotel. But he went to the Groucho club in Soho instead. Evans, and former Radio 5 Live football host Baker turned up at the hotel with Gascoigne and several minders. They were photographed but then disappeared.

Eurostar train hits lorry on crossing

An investigation was ordered yesterday after a Eurostar high speed train bound for London hit a lorry at a level crossing 30 miles west of Brussels in Belgium. The Brussels-Waterloo train was carrying 107 passengers and 10 crew, but none of them nor the driver of the empty cattle lorry was injured.

Bungled iet repairs to cost firm £5m

Private repair contractors, who caused millions of pounds of damage to frontline RAF Tornado fighters, have agreed to pay £5m in compensation, it was announced yesterday.

The total cost of the damage, by civilian contractors Airwork. amounted to £20m and the centre fuselage sections of 16 Tornados had to be replaced.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austra Sch40	Nilands FI5.DO
Belgium5Fr80	Italy 14.500
Cananes Pt4300	Madeira Esc325
Ovprus	Matta 43 certs
Denmark 0x-18	Norway NN 20
Inch Rep45p	Postugal Esc.325
France Fr14	Spain Pts300
German, DN44.5	Sweden Sw21
Greece	Sangerland - Str4.00
LunembourgUF6/)	USA\$3.00

ON ERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS Air mail, 13 weeks Cumpe £110,76; Zone 1 (Maddle

East, America, Africa and India) £184.08; Zone 2 (Far East and Australesia: £206.70. To order, please sand cheque pacable to Johnsons International Metha Services Ltd to 43 Mathanhous London E14 9TR or telephone 0171-538 8288, Credit cards welcome BACK ISSUES

Such sales of the Independent are available from: Historia Marissapers, telephone 01998 840370.



Gin and Jag: Jennifer Ehle in C4's genteel murder mystery drama, Melissa, by Alan Bleasdale

Ripping yarn for Ehle, but not a bodice to be seen

Jennifer Ehle, who played Elizabeth Bennet in the BBC1 production of Pride and Prejudice, stars in the title role of Bleasdale's first genteel murder mystery. The five-part serial, which starts in April, was updated from a 1960s script by the classic "country house" thriller writer Francis Durbridge.

Its tortuous plot involves a Bosnian war correspondent played by Tim Dutton, last seen in Rhodes, who gets involved with Ehle's PR woman and then a series of baffling crimes. Bleasdale described it as "a morality tale disguised as a detective story."

Other highlights of Channel 4's spring and summer season include a weekend devoted to the situation comedy and another week-long special of its soap Brookside - this time killing off some children to boost ratings just weeks after its new rival Channel 5 launches.

Guaranteed to attract the attention of the Dally Mail, which dubbed Channel 4's former chief executive

A lan Bleasdale, writer of GBH and Boys from the Blackstuff, has turned from gritty social commentary to the gin and Jag set for Channel 4's big spring drama Melissa.

Michael Grade "Britain's Pornographer in Chief" is The Investigator. It is based on a true story and features Cardiac Arrest's Helen Baxendale as a military police investigator who seeks at lactic and in the contraction of th vestigator who seeks out lesbians and gays in the Army then starts to realise she is a lesbian herself

Stuart Cosgrove, Channel 4's head of arts and entertainment, confirmed that he has signed Chris Evans, Radio 1's errant disc jockey, to two unnamed series for the autumn in addition to his TFI Friday chat show. However Mr Cosgrove regretted that he was unable to per-suade Chris Morris, who's controversial Brass Eye series ended fast week, to produce an election special for the channel.

The Channel is bringing its innovations in late night 'youth' programming to the daytime. Light Lunch, a live cookery and chat magazine programme with a comedy edge starts in March. Channel 4 has been revamping its afternoons and its success is starting to worry its advertising department. Because it is attracting large audiences in the daytime the channel is bringing down-market C1 and C2 viewers to a station that makes its money from ABC1 viewers.

head CSA The controversial Child Sup-

Sir Paul McCartney was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday, attending the ceremony without his wire, Linda, who has been undergoing treatment for cancer, and has not now appeared in public for over a year. Sir Paul is only the second pop

McCartney

elevated to the

holy orders

star to receive a knighthood, Cliff Richard being the other, though George Martin, the Beatles record producer, was knighted last year.

The former Beatle, who says his erstwhile sparring partners George and Ringo now refer to him as "Your Holiness", arrived at the palace in a chauffeur-driven limousine accompanied by three of his children.

The Queen asked Sir Paul how his Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts was progressing. "I told her it was still going well," said Sir Paul. "I'm still heavily involved in music and I have a new album, called Flaming Pie, coming out in May."

The ex-Beatle, who allegedly smoked cannabis at the palace after receiving his MBE in 1965 with the other Beatles, said receiving his knighthood was one of the best days



Sir Paul at the palace yesterday

of his life. "It's just a huge honour. Coming from a small terraced house to this house is quite a journey." He is now 54, but some fans, also

getting older, still follow him across the country. Debbie Wakeford, 38, from London, arrived at the palace at 6am to get a glimpse of him. She said: "Paul deserves it for everything he's done, it's long overdue. But George and Ringo deserve it too. They bring happiness to a lot of

Tax woman to

port Agency has a new chief executive. Faith Boardman, the former chief executive of the Contributions Agency, takes up her post in a month. Her appointment, made yesterday by the Secretary of

State for Social Security, Peter Lilley, comes four months after the previous head of the agency, Ånn Chant, resigned. Like her predecessor, Mrs Boardman is a career civil servant. She will be paid around £80,000, including a

performance bonus.

After graduating with a de-gree in history from Oxford she joined HM Customs and Excise. In April 1995, she was appointed chief executive of the Contributions Agency, which colects National insurance contributions.

Ms Chant resigned last Norember. She was credited with saving the agency from collapse but faced constant difficulties after replacing Ros Hepplewhite in 1994 at the height of controversy over the CSA's performance.

Obesity fears as children get fatter and taller

Children in England and Scotland are growing taller but also much fatter. The trend, confirming evidence from earlier studies, emerged from surveys conducted between 1972 and 1994 of 7,000 English and 3,500 Scottish schoolchildren aged five to 11.

As feets grow over the rise in obesity, the Department of Health and burst age in processes.

said work was in progress to establish why. The study by researchers at Si

Thomas's hospital in south London found that the height of Scottish average of more than 2cms while English children grew by nearly 1.5cm. But the children had also become fatter. The "skinfold thickness showed a fat increase in all children which was most pronounced in Scotland Nine-year-old Scottish boys grew 24 per cent fatter during while 10-vear-old Scottish girls became 22 per cent



Ecomm

«Hami

and m

hoids his

Mind Boot

Scottish doctors in rush to quit

A Scotland-wide survey among family doctors has shown a crisis of morale among GPs which needs urgent attention, the Scottish

Liberal Democrats said vesterday.

The survey showed a "massive level of unhappiness" with 51 per cent of doctors considering leaving medicine. It also revealed that 94 per cent were dissatisfied with the present two-tier GP system and more than one third said they are not satisfied with their jobs.

The Scottish Liberal Democrat survey claims this

dissatisfaction comes in the main from an increase in bureaucracy caused by Government reforms. However, some 85 per cent would prefer to build on the current system rather than reorganise again.

EDUCATION

Care leavers suffer schooling gap

Almost half of children leaving care have no qualifications in their 20s compared with one in six of the general population, according to a report by Barnado's.

A similar proportion of care leavers are unemployed and struggling to survive on benefits said Professor Mike Stein who carried out the study.

Those who went on schemes developed in the last decade to help care leavers were more likely to find good accommodation, managed their budgets better and were more likely to find work than those who did not. The charity is calling for more commitment and resources so that care leavers do not fall through the gaps in the support network.

What Works in Leaving Care? price £6.99 is from Barnado's Child Care Publications, Barnado's Trading Estate, Paycocke Road, Basildon, Essex, SS14 3DR Glenda

HEALTH

Low-tar danger for smokers Any health-conscious smokers who ope for low-tar-cigarettes do

certain way, a report claims today, No Smoking Day.
Smokers are often unaware that the cigareties have tiny vents in their filters which must not be blocked by fingers or lips, according to a report in Tobacco Control, a journal published by the British

Medical Journal publishing group.

When the cigarettes are tested by machines, the filter ventilation dilutes the passage of tar and nicotine by as much as 90 per cent. But people do not smoke like machines and many accidentally block the vents. That can double the yield of harmful carcinogen the report's authors, from Penn State University in the US, say.

acco Control, BMJ Publishing, BMA Public Affairs Division, 383 6254 Annabel Ferriman 0171 383 6254

NATURE

More help for birds of prey

Protected birds of prey which upset pigeon fanciers and grouse shooters because of their hunting habits should not be killed for doing what comes naturally, a report says. Instead, it recommends measures to increase the numbers of wild birds on which some predators feed and more protection for pigeons and grouse...

With peregrines hunting pigeons and red grouse and hen harriers also taking grouse, pigeon fanciers and grouse shooters want their already low numbers reduced. But the report says pigeon fanciers overlooked that their birds can die from bid. weather and exhaustion. It acknowledged that grouse numbers are declining but attributes this to "the loss, fragmentation and poor management of much of the heather moorland".



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

Techno Wizardry. Magic Price.

DELL DIMENSION XPS M200s ● INTEL 200MHz PENTIUM PROCESSOR WITH

MMX TECHNOLOGY ● 16Mb SDRAM

■ 512Kb (ACHE

● 3Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE

• STB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH

 15°COLOUR SVGA MONITOR 113 75° VIEWABLE AREA I TWELVE SPEED (D-ROM DRIVE

 MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS ■ INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95

£1,299 (£1,555.70







Incredible isn't it? With its fantastic spec and for only £1.299 (£1.555.70 inc. del & VAT), we're offering a Dell Dimension" XPS M200s with a Pentium Processor with MMX" technology Because it comes with MMX technology, it can run between 10% and 20% faster under today's normal business applications. It includes a powerful 12 Speed CD-ROM Drive and a 3Gb Hard Drive. And, as if this wasn't enough, we're also offening additional upgrades at outstanding prices (see below to upgrade this system further). But you must hurry

before the offer vanishes. Call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer* today on 01344 724864 to see what Dell can conjure up for you.

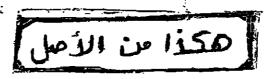
Upgrade Options Special Price for this Dimension XPS M200s bundle only Add on additional 16Mb RAM Only \$100 (\$117.50 inc. VAT)

Add multimedia kit of AWE 32 sound upgrade and ACS20 speakers Only 2100 (2117.50 inc. VAT) Only £99 (£116.33 inc. VAT) (CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF OFFICE 97 UPGRADES.)-



344724864

Dell and the Dell logo are registered in idemark, and Cell Computer Corporation is a trademark at Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel In ide logo are registered indemarks of the Mindows Intel Delivers of the Mindows



Strong stomach for a day at the races

Clare Garner

hildren

chooling ga

TOTES

It seemed half of London and more than half of Ireland descended on Cheltenham yesterday to soak up the spring sunshine at what has been dubbed the races for real people.

Unlike Ascot, the three-day National Hunt Festival is, supposedly, a free-for-all affair. While it is possible to pay £345 for a seat in the new Panoramic Restaurant and £50 a head for access to the Club Enclosure, it costs just £10 to while away the day in the Courage Enclosure.

Bruce Carless, a chartered ac-countant listening to the brass band in the £20 Tattersalls enclosure, said-"We just want a good day out in the sunshine, to have a bet and a drink. You don't have to spend £50 to do that. It's the atmosphere we want."

The Irish had jetted into Britain in their droves, ready to consume gal-lons of Guinness. Some will be stay-said proudly. "I only came for the ing longer than expected. One such, a "canny gambler", according to his now. That's about £12,000 - without friends, had seen his horse, Make a the taxman bothering me." With a Stand, win the Champion Hurdle bit of luck he will have a little left over race. He had backed it 5-1 with for Saturday. "We're going to have



Racing uncertainty: For one spectator it was a little too much on the opening day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival, dubbed the races for real people

المكذا من الأصل

£2,500. "I was talking to Martin a big bash on the rugby international

between Wales and England," he said. Londoners, armed with binoculars and hip flasks, had travelled up on special trains. In a haze of smoke, men pored over Sporting Lifes and Racing Posts. "Give us a winner then," said one as he showed his tick-

Some were being entertained by companies for the first time. They did not know what to expect. Peter Harthill, a caretaker, was prepared for the worst: "I've got a tie in my pocket, but I ain't put it on." he said. I hate wearing ties.

Tony Mountenay had no such

worries. He had paid his tenner and expected to be quids in at the end of the day. As manager of a fishmonger on Sloane Avenue, Chelsea, he was not short of inside information: "A lot of my customers own horses." he said, reaching for another cigarette. "Handy contacts I've got there to be seen. Cheltenbam's

at times - Peter O'Sullevan, Colonel Cook, Henry Cecil, Lester Piggott." For Mr Mountenay. Cheltenham is the best day of the year: "When they called it the Festival, they meant it. Royal Ascot is very snobbish. People who don't go racing go unique ... Any horse that is, is there. It's a party, that's what it is. One big party." But for all the talk of it being a "working men's races", some-one must be drinking the 2,700 gallons of champagne and tucking in to the ton of salmon reportedly

Freak weather costs a fortune but saves lives

... and it's good for the orange frogs, too

Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

The freakishly hot year of 1995 cost the country hundreds of vember 1994 to October 1995 million pounds but prolonged were also the warmest on reducing deaths in winter, a although rainfall through that Government-funded study has year was near normal. That is

There were heavy costs for building insurers, the water industry and farming from the build-up of "greenhouse gases" excess heat, but massive savings in fuel bills. Overall, the disadvantages appear to outweigh the advantages, said the scientists who carried out the study for John Commer, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The research, published yes-terday, was intended to weigh up the impacts of 1995's strange weather and consider how permanent man-made global warming may be affecting the

Summer that year was the warmest and driest on record.

was 3C above the long-term average for those months, and rainfall a third of the average.

The 12 months from Nothe kind of temperature rise being forecast for Britain midway through the next century, as a traps heat in the atmosphere.

The research was done by 14 experts at nine universities and research institutes, led by the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit. They found that the Christ-

mas shopping rush was boosted by sunny weather and hot weather seemed to push up inflation. Sex crimes are more frequent when March, August and January are unusually warm.

Tourism: Hot weather makes Britons more inclined to go on Central England's average tem-holiday in their own country but perature for July and August perversely, also makes people



Leap in numbers: Orange frogs and other albino varieties are increasing as the tempe

spend less on attractions. In 1995, the heat cut this tourist expenditure by £235m. Visitors spend more time soaking up the sunshine, and less on fair-

1,000 extra deaths. But this was far outweighed by reduced mortality in the mild winter be-

Health: The baking summer is estimated to have caused over about 15,000 less than it would normally have been. Cases of people made ill by food poisoning were also pushed up as

Energy: Britain saved £355m during the year due to cheaper energy bills. But household electricity consumption rises in a hot summer, as many more

er in hot spells. Shopping: Sales of clothes and shoes fell by £383m because of

the hot summer weather. Fruit and vegetable sales rose by £25m and beer brewers earned an extra £123m. Buildings: Clay soils shrunk in

the drought, bringing a spate of

subsidence claims, which cost the insurance companies at least £300m extra. On the othclaims from frozen pipes in winter, saving up to £125m. Farming: British agriculture lost about £180m due to dry weather. The nation's most important crops, wheat, barley and oilseed rape, were boosted by the warmth but there were

poor harvests for potatoes. Livestock was hardest hit. with farmers losing some £210m. Intensively reared animals suffered in the heat. Forestry: If every year was as warm as 1995. Britain's main commercial forests - conifers planted on the uplands - would be ready for harvesting after 43

years instead of 46. Water: There were bans on sprinklers, hosepipes and car washing across much of Britain through the summer, and in Yorkshire Water's area the severe drought carried on into the winter. Water companies had to spend an extra £96m on supplying water, with half of that born by Yorkshire Water alone.

The number of orange frogs. and other albino varieties, appears to be rising and this may be linked to a warming cli-mate, says the Cornwall Wildlife Trust in a report issued today.

The frogs, which range in colour from orange through lack the dark pigments which allow tadpoles and young frogs to absorb solar warmth, helping them grow to adulthood.

The report's author, Mark Nicholson, points out that albinos are more common in southern Britain. "If they do survive better in warmer areas, we might expect their numbers to be increasing if our climate is warming." he added.

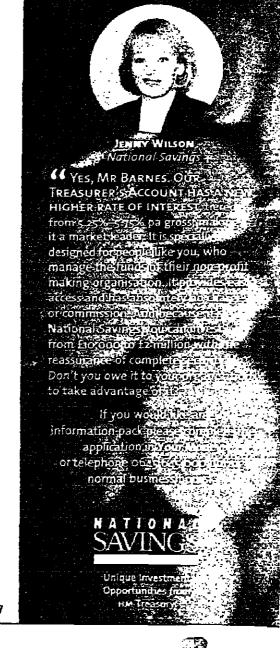
Fires: Hot, dry weather causes a sharp increase in heath, grassland and crop fires. Numbers of these fires rose by more than 50 per cent between 1994 and 1995, says the study.

Economic impacts of the hot summer and unusually warm year of 1995. Global Atmosphere Division. Dept of Environment. Romney House. Marsham Street, London SW1.

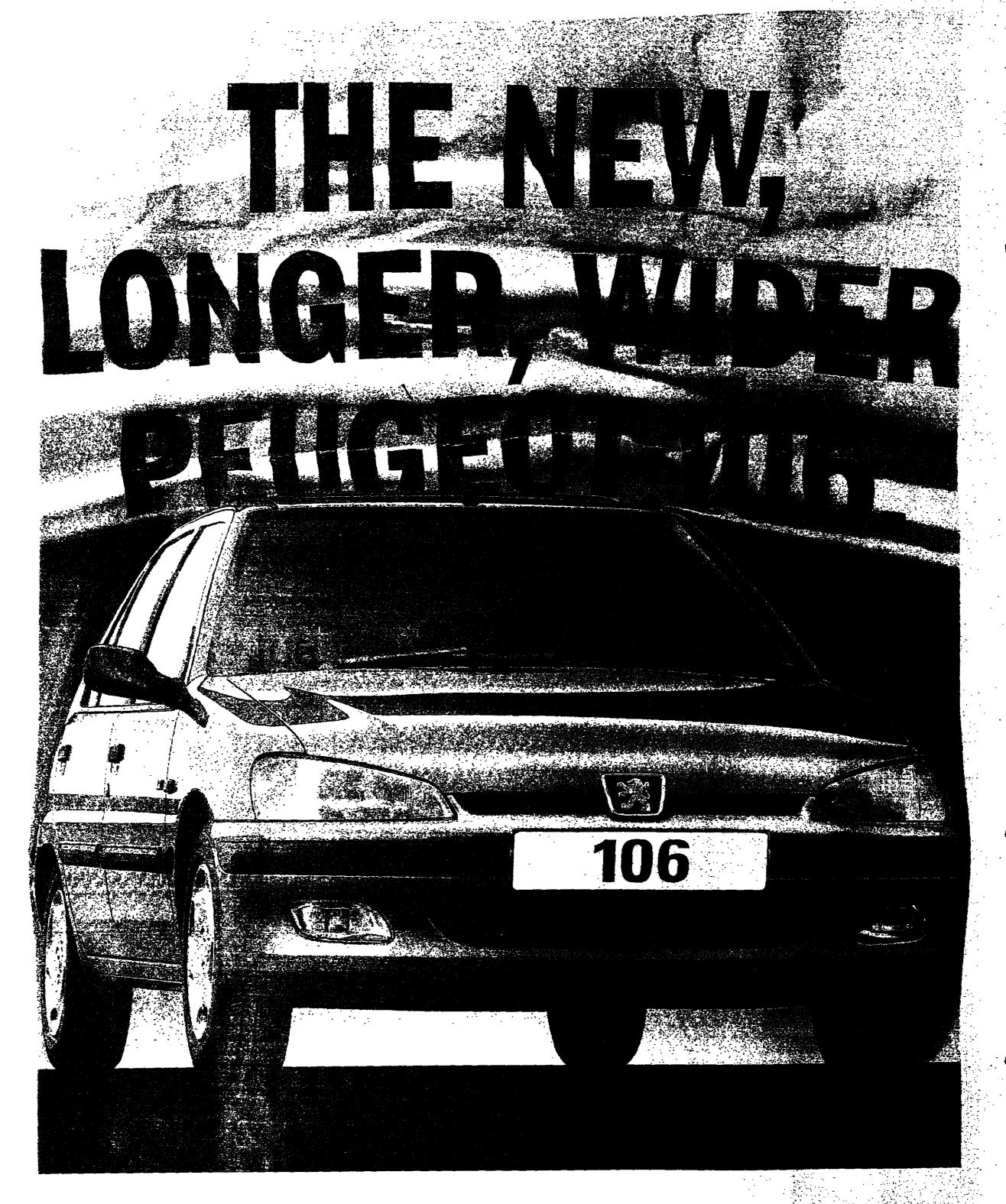
SAVINGS investment . Ideas

HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

and I've just discovered that I can now get an interest rate of up to 5.75% with the National Savings Treasurer's Account. That's a lot more than the rate I'm getting now. Can you tell me more? **George Barnes**



KC1IN7



The new, longer, wider Peugeot 106 is many things. It is sleeker, smoother and more elegant.

The new interior trim and centre console with Coded Keypad Immobiliser are brighter, comfier and smarter.

The new side-impact protection system.

driver's airbag' and pretensioned front seat

belts are stronger, safer and more reassuring.

While power steering (standard on most models)" makes parking easier, quicker and hassle free.

In terms of models, the choice of a 1.1 litre, 1.4 litre, a powerful 16 valve 1.6 litre petrol engine or 1.5 litre diesel and 3 or 5 door versions each with a 5-speed gearbox is generous, wide ranging and considerate.

There's even a current offer of free insurance on our special edition models, all in a drive away price from £7,695; which is nice.

For more information on the all new Peugeot 106, please call, visit or contact your nearest Peugeot dealer, Alternatively, phone, ring or dial 105

PEUGEOT E

THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

هكذا من الأصل

pocto care s

ligan ru hief der hel sca

lard sel

Doctor in Aids scare struck off for ignoring risk

The doctor at the centre of an snade the Zambian-born doc-Aids scare was yesterday struck tor to address the potential off the medical register after admitting he did not have an HIV test for eight months after an ex-lover wained he was:

father of three, who has vanished since his identity was made public, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct by the Conduct Committee of the General Medical Council (GMC).
Professor Sir Herbert

Duthie, who chaired the hearing, said Dr Ngosa had failed to He finally told the GMC last put the safety of patients foremost and had "seriously and." persistently" misled the GMC. who first questioned him on the issue last June - and others.

"His behaviour was a betrayal of his patients' trust and undermines the trust placed by the public in the profession. Such behaviour cannot be tolerated," Sir Herbert said. The committee would protect the confidentiality of doctors who acted responsibly in such circumstances, he added.

Rosalind Foster, for the GMC, said a former lover of Dr Ngosa contracted the virus and

made repeated efforts to perproblem and passed details to the GMC in June when he did not. But in a series of letters and telephone calls to health offirisk. cials, Dr Ngosa denied even Dr Patrick Ngosa, a married having the affair.

He continued applying for jobs in the NHS and worked as a locum in obstetric and gynaecological wards until 13 January this year.

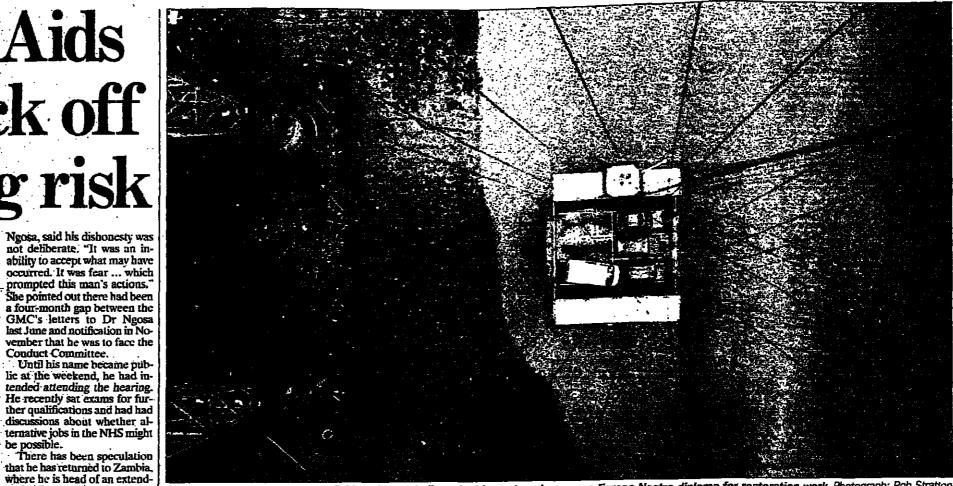
Conduct Committee.

Only when finally forced to take a test, which proved positive, did he admit the relationship with the unnamed woman. month.

Miss Foster said the 39-yearold doctor had a "blatant disregard" for his responsibilities He had been dishonest about his affair and was determined to remain in practice "at, it would appear, almost all costs, irrespective of the risk to pa-

There were still some concerns that he had worked elsewhere than the hospitals in London, Essex, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire which were already contacting 1,752 former patients considered to be at small risk from contact with

him.
But Nicola Davies QC, for



Prize ride: Newport Transporter Bridge, Gwent, built early this century, has won a Europa Nostra diploma for restoration work Photograph: Rob Stratton

Wigan rugby chief denies libel scam

tried to induce the director of ports alleging players had been another club to join him in a involved in "a drunken binge". fraudulent scheme to win damages case against his local news- one player, Neil Cowie, as be-

aper, a court heard yesterday. ing a member of the holiday Bolton Crown Court heard group when he was not present. that Mr Robinson, 54, devised a scheme to pursue an action for damages against the Wigan Obsener, claiming that as a result of its report, Leeds Rugby League Club had pulled out of a lucrative transfer deal for

one of Wigan's star players. Alan Conrad, for the prosecution, said Mr Robinson sought the help of Alfred Davies, chief executive of Leeds, to support his claim, which stemmed from a match. in February last year when Wigan were surprisingly beat-en by Salford.

Mr Robinson gave an interview to the Wigan Observer in which he criticised the club



lack Robinson: Accused of

Jack Robinson, chairman of ife before the match. The interview was followed by re-

> The paper mistakenly named group when he was not present. Mr Robinson decided to try to turn the mistake to his financia advantage "in a fraudulent manner", Mr Conrad said.

> In phone calls to Mr Davies Robinson suggested the bogus transfer deal with a view to splitting the profits of a libel action "50-50". "That was clearly a fraudulent suggestion," Mr Conrad added. After Mr Davies's first refusal, Mr Robinson repeated his offer, adding: "Re the Neil Cowie situation: we will give you an extra 10 per cent

if you play ball."
"Mr Davies told him to bug ger off," Mr Conrad said.
The Wigan Observer's editor,
Carl Johnston, received a solicitors' letter claiming Cowie's proposed transfer deal had been called off due to the paper's article and demanding a retraction and payment of damages and full legal costs. When he checked the deal with Mr Davies, the "amazed" Leeds chief wrote to Mr Robinson de-

manding not to be involved. The court heard Mr Robinon wrote to Mr Davies saying there had been "an unfortunate misunderstanding" and he had never intended to involve Mr

Davies in the legal action. Mr Robinson denies two charges of inducement to produce a fraudulent instrument and one count of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Guard sell-off plan dropped

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

经基本

Plans to sell off the guarding of some of Britain's most sensitive military establishments to a venture capital company have management but which still been abandoned it was an handles pension funds for been abandoned, it was announced last night. However, British Coal and British Rail. the company is still expected to buy up another defence agency. made clear who would guard the using miners' and rail workers' pension fund money to do so.

Roger Freeman, the public services minister, said last night that the Custody Services agency, which provides security for the chemical and biological weapons research eslablishment at Porton Down in Wiltshire, will remain in the public sector.

agency to an investment company called Apax Partners, but gave up last week after apparently failing to reach agreement over the transfer of staff.

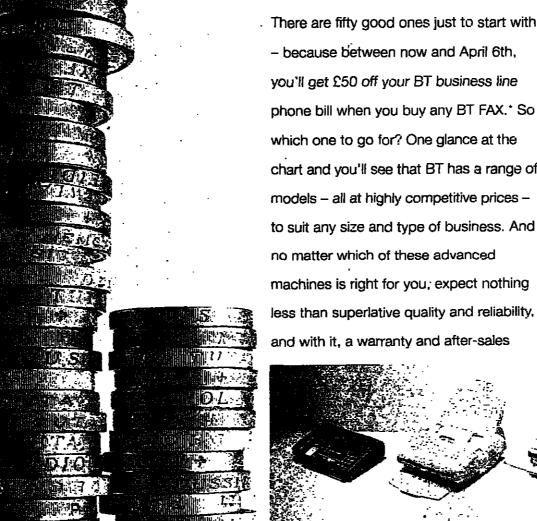
have also talked of selling the agency to CinVen, the former venture capital arm of British Coal's pensions branch, which has been bought out by its

Although CinVen had not establishments at research bases such as West Freugh, in Scotland, where missiles and bombs are tested, the deal was thought to be a buy-out by the existing management with the firm's financial backing.

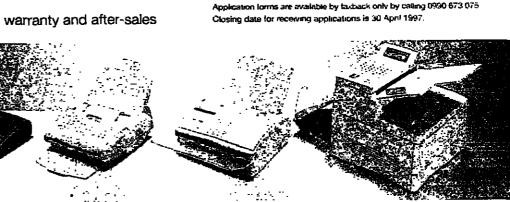
However, the support services arm of the Defence, Evaluation and Research Agency, which provides information Ministers first tried to sell the technology, cleaning and properry services, is still expected to be sold to CinVen.

The deal is expected to be announced within the next few days and pushed through before the general election.

The reasons tor buying a BT fax are stacking up.



- because between now and April 6th, you'll get £50 off your BT business line phone bill when you buy any BT FAX.* So which one to go for? One glance at the chart and you'll see that BT has a range of models - all at highly competitive prices to suit any size and type of business. And no matter which of these advanced machines is right for you, expect nothing less than superlative quality and reliability. and with it, a warranty and after-sales



phone-fax/copie:

phone/fax/copies

phone/fav.copier

phone/tax/copier

plain paper/ta//

plain paper/copier/

plain paper/copier/

plain paper/copier-

printer/scanner/lax (laser)

printer/scanner/fax (laser)

*\$50 saying is available with a purchase of any BT tak and is inclusive

of VAT. Saving will be credited over two quarterly bills and can only be made to a BT business line. One credit may be claimed per

business line, up to a maximum of five lines at any business location,

answering machine

DF400

answenng machine

and get £50 back

and get £50 back 2799.00

and get £50 back

and get £50 back

2255.31

£339.57

€424.65

£424.65

2599.00

2999.99

service you can really trust. Because the last thing you need is a stack of problems. For more information and to

take advantage of that \$250 offer before April 6th call BT Businessconnections now on Freefone 0800 800 800.

Work smarter not just harder

BT FAX MACHINES

Freefone 0800 800 800

All models available from: BT Business Connection Centres in selected BT Shops. Selected models also available from BT Communications Centres, Allders, Argos, Carphone Warehouse, Comet, Currys, Dixons, John Lewis Partnership, The Link, Seeboard and all good electrical retailers.

s usual, they were all rushing for the exits after Prime Minister's Questions, when a point of order stopped MPs in their tracks. What followed was truly wonderful.

It was Mr John Greenway, the Conservative MP for Rvedale, who had started it, when he earlier invited the Prime Minister to join him in congratulating the Chartered Insurance Institute on its centenary year". Didn't the PM agree that "a partnership of insurance companies and the state is the best way of ensuring that future generations can meet their pension needs?"

A quick perusal of the register of members' interests indicated that the enterprising Mr Greenway had not waited for the state to act, but was ensuring his own pension needs through

a personal partnership with the industry. He is a remunerated director of the Smart and Cook Group Ltd to the tune of, er, an undisclosed amount; a shareholder in the same company and owner of a "small share" in the property leased by Smart and Cook: he is alsoparliamentary adviser to the Institute of Insurance Brokers (netting between 10 and 15 big ones), and to General Healthcare Ltd (another 5 to 10).

Clearly, a sleaze-sensor at Rebuttal House (or whatever Labour's media centre is called) had gone off, and someone had taken a quick gander at the register - for the second that Mr Major went out. Labour's Rebutter-in-Chief Brian Wilson (Cunninghame North) was raising the question as a point of order to the Speaker. Was it in orders he asked, for Mr Greenway not

aronovitch

Bleeper triggers panic at technological invasion

a question?

There was uproar. But not because of Mr Greenway's supposed misdeeds. For Mr Wilson had not taken delivery of this information via scribbled note, or the hurried whisper of an in-rushing colleague. No, he stood at the dispatch

to declare his interests when asking such box smoking bleep in hand. He had had mechanical assistance!

Sensitive Tories were horrified. Ian Bruce (Dorset South) condemned Mr Wilson "with his electronic devices". containing "messages from Mr Mandelson". Could Wilson and his

witchcraft? Speaker Betty was adamant. electronic devices that make noises should not be used in this chamber", she

Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) was not mollified. "Is it appropriate. correct and permissible to use an electronic device in this House?" he demanded. The Speaker had spoken about noise, but "what about those that don't make a noise?" Or (he didn't ask) those discreet personal ones that make just the smallest, buzzing kind of noise?

Up squeaked Harrow West's boy soprano Robert Hughes. Further to the point of order, relating to the other point of order", he trilled, "was it in order", for a member to be receiving instructions from somebody in the Labour Party dirty tricks department"? (Let us recall that this particular dirty

trick consisted of reading the register of members' interests and then telling Mr Wilson about it.)

Labour's Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull North) requested urgent clarification. A respected former member of this House had used an electronic device, he said mysteriously, so would this have been outlawed? I recalled that Jack Ashley had always used an industrial-strength hearing-aid. But did McNamara really need clarification? Was he genuinely worried that Berty would leave deaf members unaided?

Tewkesbury Tory, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown weighed in. "We on this side of the House clearly heard the bleeper operated", he whined. I doubt it, Geoffrey, since it was almost certainly set to "vibrate". Perhaps it was your

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



Major 7/10

Major responded straightforwardly to Blair's questions. He and Blair were so constructive that many MPs became bored and started chatting.

Blair did not secure the establishment of an independent food standards agency, but he made progress with his other de-Blair 7/10

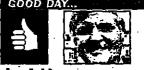
THEMES OF THE DAY

ation of primary school league tables (Charles Hendry, C. High Peak; Paddy Ashdown; Peter Butler, C. Milton Keynes NE) • The future for pensions (John Greenwi future for pensions (John Greenway, C. Ryetale) servative "deal" with tobacco industry in 1992 (Joe

•WAT on domestic fuel (Joan Walley, Lab, Stoke on Trent N)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair asked about letters from the Association of Meat Inspectors to the Meat Hygiene Service and Ministers, which had raised concerns about standards in abattors over nine months. Would Major make enquiries and would the Minister of Agniculture publish an account of the allegations, and the warnings that had been given to ministers? Major said the views of the General Secretary of the AMI, as expressed in the letters, contrasted with those of the Vice rt, who had praised MHS. But he concluded: "Notwithstanding that . I will most certainly do so .





poster sites being provided by to-

successes in Lib Dem councils' areas; Major pointed out that he would not have known of the success if the Tories had not published the tables.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

Pre-election tension seems to be exorcising quips from the chamber. But Major's arrival is now greeted with shouts of "bye ye" from the opposition.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION Walley: "Does [Major] recall that five years ago yesterday the then Chancellor of the Exchanger made a promise in his Budget speech that he would not increase VAT on fuel? Aren't we entitied now to know why the government didn't go ahead with the promise?" Major replied by asking about the effects of Labour's proposed windfall tax.

reanway: "Would my Rt Hon Friend join me in congratulating. the Chartered Insurance Institute on its centenary year.

Doesn't his agree that a partnership of insurance companies and he state is the best way of ensuring that future generations can Compiled by Ben Summers

infernal machines not be arraigned for Clarke at odds over VAT claim

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Politicians and the public were left pondering who was telling the truth yesterday after Ken-neth Clarke and Yvette Murphy, a reporter for The Grocer magazine, defended their conflicting stories over whether or not the Chancellor wanted to raise VAT on domestic fuel to

17.5 per cent.
The battle over The Grocer report now threatens to become an election issue after Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor. accused Mr Clarke of having a "secret agenda" to raise VAT Now he has come clean." said Mr Brown.

Ms Murphy, 32, and her editor, Clive Beddall, were standing by their story that Mr Clarke had told a group of journalists as he left a banquet that his challenge was to increase the rate of VAT on fuel to 17.5 per cent.

She had gone as a last-minute "stand-in" for a colleague. Mr Beddall had suggested that she ask Mr Clarke about Labour's claims that the Tories wanted to put VAT on food.

When the speeches were over, he sat down and I made my way to his table. He was lighting a cigar. I interrupted him and said I would like to ask him some questions," she said.

He stood up and she asked about Labour's VAT-on-food claims, which have appeared on Labour posters. Mr Clarke insisted he would not contemplate putting VAT on food. Ms Murphy pressed him on the point, saving that the Tories had previously ruled out VAT on domestic fuel, but had then



Sticking by her story: Yvette Murphy, whose report in The Grocer prompted a quick response from the Chancellor

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

and he said that the challenge now was to get VAT up to 15 per cent and then he corrected

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

"It only stuck in my mind because he stumbled. I was asking him the question to extract more comments about VAT on himself and said 17.5 per cent. food, which was the story I was We then continued talking about VAT on food."

But Mr Clarke, who was woken up in China by calls from Conservative Central Office to deny the reports, insisted that he had said "nothing significant"

about VAT on fuel. The Chancellor said it had not crossed his mind to raise the

VAT rate on fuel after the ing VAT on fuel after Parlia-Commons rejected the increase in a government defeat, but he

denial of her precise claims. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, backed the Chancellor at a party election press conference, and Downing Street officials said the Prime Minister would be hap-

py to reinforce that support. Peking, said: "Any implication

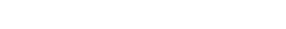
ment settled it on 8 per cent is nonsense. If she [Ms Murphy] stopped short of an outright has presented my remarks in the context that I was giving her any statement of intention about VAT on fuel or any sensational new remark about VAT on

fuel, that is not correct. This is all a phoney political debate because a tax-raising chancellor keeps having to Mr Clarke, on a visit to answer questions about tax ining of myself in the third person that I have contemplated rais-

have never crossed his mind. "Suddenly alighting on a phrase in an off-the-peg interview in The Grocer, which at the time was not regarded as a significant new statement by the journalist — that is just taking the economic debate away from reality."

He said on BBC radio that 🕏 Ms Murphy had clearly not thought he was saying anything important at the time as his creasing proposals that -speak- comments were buried in the

MERCURY



MERCURY TO FRANCE:

BT TO FRANCE:

(CHEAPER WITH BT? EXCUSEZ-MOI!)

Try, try and try again. Even after their latest price cuts, BT can't compete. With Mercury SmartCall we're still between 20% and 36% cheaper for international calls. Not to be sniffed at, is it? For details FreeCall 0500 500 366.

Mercury SmartCall

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

From squeed to France hand on a 5 minute worbend call. Prices and savings correct as at 19 behinding 1997, compared unto BT's have rate for international call, of 5 minutes or more, figure-hans to chiago and any time is a coherne. For excellence of LAT is 17 🤫 Sciences available for a quarterly fee of LATs (AT) http://www.max.urey.co.uk

Health authority faces sack over old people's ward closure

Annabel Ferriman

Members of a health authority could be sacked for approving the sudden move of five elderly people into a nursing home - in order to close a ward - against the advice of the doctor in charge. Three of the patients died within three weeks of the

A parliamentary select committee will today recommend that the Secretary of State for Health consider sacking the members of North and Mid-Hampshire Health Authority for the decision.

The committee, chaired by James Pawsey, MP for Rugby and Kenilworth, said that the members and officers should be ashamed of what took place. We recommend that the Secretary of State review the suit-

ability of these persons to be in positions of responsibility in the health service.

The committee condemned the way that the decision to close the ward, at Park Prewett Hospital, Hampshire, and move the patients, was taken behind closed doors and in the face of a strong recommendation against it by the consultant in old age psychiatry, Dr Pearl Hettiaratchy, who is a vicepresident of the Royal College

of Psychiatrists. The patients were eventually moved when the doctor was on holiday.

Mr Pawsey said yesterday: "This was an appalling case. It is very rare that a committee recommends that the Secretary of State review the suitability of health authority members to be in positions of responsibility.

That underlines the seriousness of the case." The select committee was

commenting on the report of the Health Service Ombudsman, who had already condemned the actions of the health authority in his report for 1995-96. He investigated the matter, after a complaint from relatives of one of the patients who was moved - a man in his 90s, who died two weeks after being put into a nursing home.

The select committee went further than the Ombudsman, however. It said: "We cannot criticise strongly enough this brazen attempt to ignore the expert advice of the responsible clinician who had known the patient for six years. Her advice was inconvenient to the relevant

"Mr [Alan] Langlands, Chief

in England, in speaking of this case, did not question the motives or integrity of the author-

ity. We do. The decision to bring forward the move was made with-out knowledge of the clinical assessment of all the patients and pursued in a highly improper manner. The interests of

the patients were forgotten. We criticise the authority for making the decision in a closed meeting. We consider that the description of the meeting as informal, despite all the trappings of a formal meeting, suggests some sleight of hand and an attempt to rush through a decision without the inconveniences of public scrutiny and possible controversy. We deplore such blatant disregard for departmental guidance.

Parties squabble over school blame

Labour and the Conservatives battled yesterday over the responsibility for bad schools after the publication of the first primary league tables. writes Judith Judd.

Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education, said the 10 worst-performing local education authorities were all Labour-controlled, compared with only 1 of the best 10. Tony Blair has claimed that there is no need to be afraid of

Labour. These performance tables dispel that myth." David Blunkett, shadow Secretary of State, retorted that 51 of the top 100 primaries were either in Labour-controlled authorities or in hung councils with Labour chairmen. Just three were in Conservative-controlled

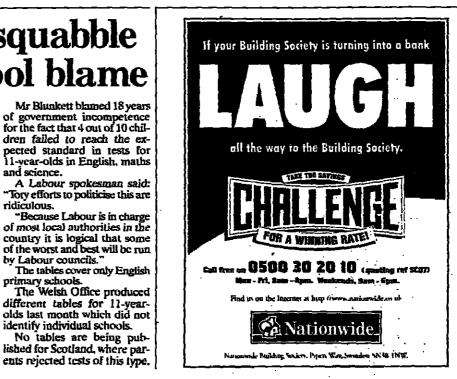
Mr Blunkett blamed 18 years of government incomp for the fact that 4 out of 10 children failed to reach the expected standard in tests for 11-year-olds in English, maths and science.

A Labour spokesman said: "Tory efforts to politicise this are

"Because Labour is in charge of most local authorities in the country it is logical that some of the worst and best will be run by Labour councils. The tables cover only English

primary schools.

The Welsh Office produced different tables for 11-year-olds last month which did not identify individual schools. No tables are being pub-



thu are-

Was er,

1 Chald

Ale with

 $H()U^i$

Knives out for Brown's chief spin doctor

Political Correspondent

The knives were out for Gordon Brown's chief spin doctor last night after a series of negative

briefings against other members of the Shadow Cabinet. Mr Brown's colleagues have opted to pin the blame for the attacks on Charlie Whelan, the shadow Chancellor's press offi-cer. Tony Blair's staff were becoming so fed up with rebutting

the stories that they were con-

sidering telling the party leader

he should be disciplined, they However, other sources said the anger against Mr Whelan was largely a deflection of growing dissent against Mr Brown nself. Recent announcements that Labour will be as tough as the Tories on public spending and tax have upset some of his

Friends of Mr Whelan have denied that he has ever been involved in negative briefings against colleagues. Those who have been hit by suggestions that they have performed badly or are likely to be demoted include Robin Cook, John Prescott, Peter Mandelson, Chris Smith and Harriet Harman. Last night

Shadow Cabinet member said there was a "golden rule" of not giving damaging stories to the press about colleagues. "Everybody else lives in

peace and harmony with each other. We are all working as a team and there is one person we all have difficulty with," the source said....

Another added that while many of the complaints stemmed from disquiet about the alternative centre of power that Gordon Brown is seen to have built up; Charlie Whe-lan tended to "shoot from the hip" too often "[Peter] Man-delson [Labour's chief spin doctor can't stand him and thinks he is out of control, and there are people in the leader's office who think that as well."

Among the damaging stories which have appeared have been reports that Mr Smith, the shadow Health Secretary, was

"in line for the chop". A report which quoted "an ally of Mr Brown" also said that Tony Blair had "axed" plans to create as super-ministry for John Prescott. Robin Cook, the party's Foreign Affairs spokesman, was attacked for talking publicly of a Labour

leagues said he had brought this on himself through loose talk at a Tribune anniversary party.

Even Peter Mandelson, the party's campaign manager, has been affected by the reports. A story in the Daily Telegraph said Mr Brown had been appointed as the party's chief campaign manager, and that Mandelson would stay in the background. One shadow cabinet had likened the spate of negative reports to the work of a "serial killer".

Last night friends of Mr Whelan said the backlash against him was borne of iealousy about Mr Brown's success. they said, and because he had been forced to make unpopu-



حكذا من الأصل

size and cost of a pint is now a political issue Photograph: Brian Harris

Parties get in a froth over a pint

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Will they stop at nothing? VAT on food, rising fuel prices and the costs of the Social Chapter are one thing, but the British pint is quite another. Now even the warm beer eulogised by John Major in his "spinsters-onbicycles" speech has become grist to the electoral mill.

More than 100 years after buying votes with beer became illegal, both parties appeared to be indulging in rather similar tactics yesterday.

While Labour campaigned to convince people that a pint of beer would be bigger under a Blair government, the Tories launched a two-pronged initiative. A vote for Labour would be a vote for a 10-pence-a-pint price hike, they claimed, while in a rose-tinted Conservative future all pubs would be able to

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman. led the first volley with a cry of: our beer!" The Government

had promised no more short measures, he said, but nothing had been done. What drinkers needed was bigger glasses and an end to slops.

Consumers don't want to listen to broken promises any more - they just want a fairer deal, he finished plaintively.

The Conservative Central Office rapid rebuttal machine was humming within minutes. No less a figure than the party's vice-chairman, Charles Hendry, was drafted in to mastermind its Beer Wars offensive.

Labour's plans for a minimum wage would put 10p on a pint, he said. Drinkers up and down the country would find that hard to swallow, he added, getting into his swing.

His statement followed hot on the heels of news that the Government was to change the rules to allow landlords to sell more types of beer. A 1989 sell a guest cask-conditioned draft beer is to be extended both to bottles and to widget-cans. 'You can't trust the Tories with thereby raising a cheer from saloon bars across the land.

Public workers' rights at risk

The job security of hundreds of thousands of British workers surprise European Court rolling.

The decision means that the

"contracting out" of public ser-smilloyees whose work had been vices will now be far more haz-contracted out. ardous for the employees concerned. Under the judg-ment, the terms and conditions of workers will not be autowork is transferred to an-

The ruling by judges in Lux-embourg, on a case brought by a German cleaner, will no doubt be welcomed by ministers who are keen to promote the contracting out of state-funded services. It will also prompt a fresh wave of litigation between employers and unions.

Lawyers yesterday said the decision would reopen the debate over whether all work contracted out by state-owned public services was covered by the European Acquired Rights Di-

closu

of employees are protected when a new contractor was appointed. John McMullen, head of the employment department was undermined yesterday by a at solicitors Pinset Curtis, said it would leave uncertainty over the degree of job security enjoyed by

Critical to any decision about whether the directive applied was if there had been a "transfer of undertakings" between matically protected when their one company and another. Such employer loses a contract and a transfer was said to have taken place if the incoming company took over tangible or intangible assets of the old contractor, its employees or its customers.

> that where the new company takes over only a proportion of be possible to argue that the directive does not operate. Existing workers could then be taken over by the successful bidder on inferior terms and conditions. The out-going contractor who would have to foot redundancy bills for those left.

Unions fear the ruling means



Renewing your home insurance in March or April?

If you are 50 or over, you could save with Saga - call us NOW

You will know how expensive home insurance can be. Thankfully, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from SAGA Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that is only available to manne, responsible people like you.

SAGA Home Insurance could offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

The Saga Price Promise

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

s LAL FREEPOST 737

obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414525 quoting reference ID3703

Insurance cover is

comprehensive and

Discounts for

home security

quotation

Call us today

For your free no

Free pen with your

Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga

NICOLE CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF HER CAPITAL.

Now Nicole's making her own way in the big ciry, it's up to her to make her francs go further. Which is why, when it comes to buying a car, she'll find the new special edition Renault Clio Paris and Clio Versailles simply ideal.

Both the Paris and Versailles are brimming with style, practicality and the sheer je ne sais quoi which distinguishes every Clio

from its rivals.

Stylish touches range from each model's distinctive upholstery to its high quality

Philips stereo sound system (with removable fascia on the Versailles).

Practicality is highlighted by a computer padlock engine immobiliser, advisable on even the most

Clio Versalles 1.2 3dr	0%	£99 deposit* 9.9% APR	
Typical Example			
Cash Price inc. on the road costs1	£7,895.00	£7,895.00	
Deposit	£3,947.48	£99.00	
Monthly Repayments	£328.96 x12	£193.60 x48	
Total Credit Price	£7,895.00	£9,491.80**	
Finance and insurance offers no	t available on the	Cito Paris	

romantic boulevards these days. As for that something extra...step forward the Versailles' tilt-and-slide sunroof and both cars' tinted glass and rear wash/wipe. Above all, there's the superb new 1.2-litre DIE.T. engine with 5-speed gearbox, the perfect partner on both busy streets and open roads.

Yet, with prices starting at just £7,195 on the road for the Paris, and £7,895 for the Versailles, both models are within anyone's reach. Even someone who's just started her first job.

For more information on the Clio Paris and Clio Versailles, call free on 0800 52 51 50.

VERSAILLES NOW WITH ONE YEAR'S FREE INSURANCE

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Juils in England and Wales are full to the brim and can accept no more, prison governors told the Home Office yesterday. It also emerged that the Prison Service accepts that it will almost certainly have to use expensive police cells in the next

England and Wales at a record 59,156 last Friday, there are only 700 places left, and inmates are being bused around the country to try to find them a hed for the night.

The scale of the problem was underlined by Chris Scott, chairman of the Prison Gover-nors' Association (PGA), who told his annual conference that

"through the roof". He also mit that we can no longer cope voiced concerns about proposed emergency measures. which include the use of a prison ship in Portland harbour, veymouth, and the conversion of a former holiday camp in

Both schemes are being opposed by local planners. Speaking at the conference at Buxton, Derbyshire, Mr Scott

normal circumstances no one in their right mind would seriously consider the introduction of ison ships and abandoned holiday camps as prison accommodation.

The Prison Service has reached the crossroads where policy and operations meet. Those responsible when there is a new prison disaster will be

the brim and can accept no more. Prison governors should not and will not be held accountable when this inevitable crisis occurs. There have to be measures to ensure that prison is used solely for the persistent offender and the most serious

offender. He called for the Prison Service's population problems to be

cept that our prisons are full to Consultative Council, a forum made up of representatives from all the agencies in the criminal justice system. David Roddan, secretary of

the PGA, said: "Last week 134 prisoners were bused from the north of England to the south to find empty cells; that is crazy. The prison population is increasing by up to 400 a week. We are talking about a day-to-

day struggle to find empty beds for prisoners. The Prison Service is chock-a-block. If the police had a purge on a partieular kind of offender, we

couldn't cope."
Linda Jones, chairwoman of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said existing community-based sentences should be used more widely to help alleviate the population

Widdecombe, who addresses the PGA conference today, said 8,000 new prison places, were being built. "It's nothing short of a miracle that despite the huge and unprecedented in-crease in numbers, we haven't

ended up in police cells." However, it is understood the Prison Service is preparing to use 1,200 police cells in England and Wales.

The ultimate prison visitor achieves her magic number

Kim Sengupta

Ann Widdecombe arrived yesterday at Spring Hill prison, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, on the final leg of her mission to visit

every prison in the country. Spring Hill, set in 190 acres of rolling hills and farmland, cannot be said to suffer from overcrowding. In fact, it is one inmate short of full capacity, 210, A relatively pleasant venue for the Home Office Minister's 129th, and final call. Still, no one was quite sure yesterday why she should embark on such an odyssey in the first place. One prison official posited, sotto voce, a possible explanation: "Well you do get football nuts who wish to visit every league ground in the land."

That is not to say Ms Widdecombe was not made welcome. To mark her achievement, prison officials presented her with a commemorative cake stating *129 ~ Widdecombe

whirlwind tour 1995-1997." But the cake did nothing to sweeten the minister's hardline views on crime and punishment. She said protests from governors and prison officers about a system at breaking point would not deter the Government from going ahead with the Crime Bill. expected to mean an increase in the prison population. Asked if there would be a

rethink about the use of custodial sentences, she said: 'Certainly not. We shall be building more prisons instead. There will be a dozen more prisons needed to cope and we shall build them. There is a prison ship due to arrive. and we are also looking at a

number of other options. The Prison Governors Association know very well that we haven't been idle. We have produced 8,000 more places, we are trying to find other sites. We have had setbacks, and obviously they are unwelcome. We have had problems with the former holiday camp, and we shall probably appeal on that."

Ms Widdecombe admitted that the lack of space may lead to more use of police cells, but added: "They are relatively expensive, and not a satisfactory solution. We do not want to use them on a

long-term basis. During the walkabout the minister listened to the views of inmates and staff. One prisoner complained about the food and said with a grin he would prefer steak and chips. Her aides, mindful of allegations - vigorously denied - that the Home Secretary's wife. Sandra, had said prisoners got "more than they deserved", would not be drawn. Ms Widdecombe was unfazed and simply promised: "I'll pass that on to Michael



Inside life: Ms Widdecombe meeting an inmate who is nearing the end of his sentence at Spring Hill prison, near Aylesbury

"Whatever happens in the Election, my loan stays fixed."

power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

If you take out a Mercantile Credit loan now, you're guaranteed that your repayments and the

AMOUNT OF	MON	YMENT SY T	TERM	
LOAN	24 MTHS	36 MTHS	50 wins	APR
2 6,000	290.71	207,77	142.50	15.9%
£10,000	476.20	337.74	228.38	13.9%

term of vour loan are fixed whatever happens to interest rates after the Election.

You can borrow anything from £500 to £15,000 and we'll give you up to five years to pay us back.

West Sussex RH10 28P. No stamp required)

You don't need any deposit or security. We'll give you a quick decision.

And we're open every day from 7am to 11pm. So, if you're over 25, in regular employment and have an annual income of £10,000 or more, call us free now.



PHONE FOR A FAST LOAN - CUSTING REF 4646

Cruel sea claims two fishermen

Kate Watson-Smyth

Coastguards searching for the three-man crew of a missing trawler recovered two bodies yesterday. The deaths came as searching off Portreath, north an inquiry was launched into the Cornwall, after contact was lost disappearance of another fishing boat: the search for which were spotted near wreckage vas delayed for several hours

YORAFOKE •

TARIFF

FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE
AND IN-CAR ADAPTOR
WORTH 555 Inc. VAT

FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP
FOR I YEAR WITH THE
CELLPHONES DIRECT
ADVANTAGE CARD

FREE GUARANTEE

FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING

YOUAFORE.

PERSONALWORLD 15 TARIFF

CONNECTION CONTROL £35.00

MONTHLY RESIDE \$17.50

PENERATE CALLS BE WIDE OFF PENECALLS

40 per min 12 per min

Cellphones

THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888

The bodies of two men from the St Ives-based Gorah Lass were picked up by lifeboats early yesterday morning. They

and transferred to a helicopter

NOKIA 1611

∞ ∞ ∞ ∧

C

1 2 3

4.º 5.º 6...

200 80 800

0 0 V

£9.99

which took them to RAF St Mawgan, near Newquay, while the search for the third crew member continued.

Mick Quinn, senior watch officer for Falmouth Coastguards, said: "It was fiat calm and there was some fog, but we don't think that was the cause." He said the search would continue until nightfall and then the situation

would be reconsidered. Meanwhile an official from

in Aberdeen last night to investigate why the search for a missing trawler and her fourman crew was delayed for eight

Debris from the Arbroadi West Haven was found yesterday 100 miles north-east of Aberdeen but there was no sign of the four fishermen. A coastguard spokesman said that no life rafts had been seen, but the the Marine Accident Investi- search would continue.

The Fire-ants

By Glyn Maxwell

Look who was standing in a loaf of ants Eight seconds, whose attempt at a kick-dance Was excellent, whose trainer was alive on close inspection and whose sock a hive. Who gripped the air! - The guide got there and thumped My trailing foot until the blighters jumped And fell. Fire-ants, they were, like scraps of earth, Conferring as they dropped, reporting death To the workers who not looking went it's not To which was added if it is, so what? By the intelligentsia of the nest,

Whose task it is to quibble and know best. Mine was to bop one-legged for a while Until the guide stood up with the right smile. Good to have got out quickly, was his gist. I didn't disagree. That was some dust Had come alive. The guide was moving off. So I trod some half a dozen into scuff Then lightly squatted down to see them cope With coming to this pass. I saw one grope And topple out intact and crab around in chaos till it found its proper ground, Then drag away, infernally askew

A dance it isn't, what we have to do.

(Upon inadvertently stepping into a fire-ants' nest, mid jungle, and receiving much pain as a consequence.)

The programmes that Glyn Maxwell and Simon Armitage made about their excursion to Amazonia, Bahia and Beyond, continue this week on BBC Radio 3 until Friday, at 9.20pm (9.35pm

DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT Small space. Big savings rate. DIRECTLINE 0161 833 1121

LONDON MANCHESTER



news



Oriental chic: A model shading John Galliano's delicate embroidered blossoms at Christian Dior's 1997-98 ready-to-wear show in Paris yesterday

Serial sex attacker poised to strike again, police fear

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

A serial sex attacker is preying on women in the West Midlands and is believed to have assaulted at least 21 victims in the past three months.

Detectives fear that the man. who frequently uses a knife to terrorise his targets, will strike again soon.

In a large number of the cases, he has grabbed his victim from behind, often from a bus stop, or off the street, and taken her to a quiet spot before attacking and robbing her. Some of the women have suffered serious sexual assault and are deeply traumatised.

He is believed to be responsible for at least 18 separate attacks in Birmingham and in Kidderminster, in Hereford and Worcester. The youngest victims were 15 years old.

A team of 40 officers is trying to track down the serial criminal and a reward of £1,000 has been offered. Detective Chief Inspector Trevor Swingler, who is heading Operation Blackpool, said: "We need to catch this man before he attacks anybody else.

The attacker often uses a craft knife with a retractable blade during the assaults.

A police spokesman said: "He frequently approaches people from behind with a knife and puts his hands over their mouths and then attacks

Birmingwam

2 December, Sprn. 16 year old dragged into park in Harborne and indecemby assaulted.
Cartismas Day, Sprn. 16 year old mobbed in Sureon Coldfield.
28 December, 10pm, 17 year old girt forced imp bus shelter and senselly assaulted and robbed in Shriev. Soland 18 January, 6.30pm, 17 year old, Nicderminister, money demanded but ran off.
18 January, 6.50pm, 20 year old, E20 taken.
7pm, 40 year old, indecemby assaulted two 13 year old indecemby assaulted two 13 year old indecemby assaulted two 13 year old storget with their assallart and one suffered a stight wound to her hand before escaping.
19 January, 19 year old forced onto nearby gressland robbed and indecemby assaulted in Barriery Green.
29 January, 5pm, 32 year old, robbed in Salty Oak.
29 January, 5pm, 32 year old, robbed in Salty Oak.
20 January, 10pm, two girls forced them into an alley and indecemby assaulted in Northfield.

6 February, 6.30pm, 16 year old, purse stolen ar knifepoint as gets off bus.
6 February, 7 30pm, 20-year-old, forced to go to a walkway in Erdington, where seriously sexually assaulted and robbed.
6 February, two 15 year olds, pushed to the ground at a cus shelter in Weoley Castle, Disturbed by a motional and ran old.
19 February, 6pm, 16 year old, indicernly assaulted and robbed in Horuffield, behind a block of masonaties.
21 February, 8.25pm, 15 year old, siezed white waiting at a bus stop Sofihuli Robbed and indecently assaulted.
2 March, 43 year old woman was attacked from behind and robbed at knife point in Harborne.
2 March, 3pm, 24 year old, attacked at bus stop in Edgbasten. Woman punched in face before man flees.
2 March 9 30pm, 17 year old giff walking home in Bournville forced into park and sexually assaulted and robbed

have taken place on the evening a man with a knife while she was of 2 December, when a 16-year- waiting in a bus shelter in Solihind by a man while she was forced into the shelter and sexwalking along the road in Harborne, Birmingham, and was dragged into a park where she was indecently assaulted. Other victims include a girl

The first attack is believed to aged 17 who was approach by old girl was grabbed from be- hull on 28 December. She was ually assaulted before having

her money snatched. In one evening, on 18 Janu-

point. They included a 40-yearold who was indecently assouhed and an 18-year-old who was out on the hand.

On 19 January, the attacker ran up behind a woman aged 19 at Bartley Green, Birmingham. and forced her onto nearby ary, in Kidderminster, five grassland where she was robbed women were attacked at knife- and indecently assaulted.

Two girls were threatened by a man with a craft knife on 20 January while they were walking in Northfield. Birmingham. The man forced them into an alley and then indecently assaulted them, before fleeing.

Two 15-year-old girls were assaulted by a knifeman while waiting at a bus shelter in Weoley Castle, Birmingham, They were pushed to the ground and threatened. Rowever, the attacker was disturbed by a motorist and ran off.

A In-year-old walking in Northfield was threatened and forced behind a block of maisonettes where she was indecently assaulted and robbed on 19 February.

Two days later a 15-year-old girl was seized and threatened with a knife while she was waiting at a bus stop in Solihull. She was robbed and indecently assaulted.

The last reported incident happened on 2 March when a 17-year-old girl, walking home in Bournville, Birmingham, was forced into a nearby park at knifepoint and sexually as-

saulted and robbed. The attacker is usually described as a white man, between 5ft 6in and 5ft 10in, aged in his late twenties or early thirties, of stocky build, and wearing a baseball cap, a dark bomber jacket, jeans, and training shoes.

Anyone with information about the attacker should contact the West Midland police on 0121 o26 4123.

Low-paid to get court 'entrance' fee refunds

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Thousands of people on low in- will be eligible for a refund. funds of court "entrance" fees yesterday after the Government swiftly bowed to last Friday's High Court ruling that

new regulations were unlawful. Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, said that he would not attempt to appeal the deersion and would immediately make new orders restoring the exemption from fees for people on income support, and restoring the right of others of limited means to apply for

reductions or remissions. The orders will replace those parts of rules introduced on 15 January but declared invalid by

the court. Anyone who would have been eligible for exemption or remission but for the changes Mr Justice Laws said in last

of the new rules was to "bar absolutely" many people from seeking justice from the courts in a wide-ranging variety of situations.

"The right to a fair trial, which of necessity imports the right of access to the court, is as near to an absolute right as any I can envisage," he said.

The case, brought by an Essex businessman, John Witham. related only to the High Court. but Lord Mackay went further vesterday, bringing county and family-court proceedings within the scope of the order.

But a spokeswoman said he "remains concerned about the potential injustice where litigants in person, who are exempted or remitted from court fees, bring unjustified actions against defendants who must then pay to defend themselves with no prospect of recovering

This judgment implies that this must be a matter for Parliament to regulate and the Lord Chancellor will consider

it further in that light." Nothing in the judgment or the new orders will affect the steep rises in court fees introduced by the rules, which raised the High Court fee from £100 to between £120 and £500 and those in other civil cases from between 50 and 150 per cent.

:0

111 -730 n paces per minute. MIG det per inch. III..760 6 p. 200 per monate. 1200 v om lan per m.k. Nerview Super path We're No.2 - and look who we've beaten 2127 **243** 24 15 PANASONIC There can be no denying it we've outperformed some 111 -1260c **LEXMARK** Mange for a muit. 'big' names to be No.2 in Months midely and habit laser printers. Norge of republics → APPLE And it's not something that's happened overnight - it's a position we've held for the → OKI past two years. For more facts about the **CANON** No.2, call the number below. → NEC Total and the real profes AMS 1944 models available. → SHARP Some authors product More than just features

There's an adaptation of an old Tommy 47 Cooper joke about a man who, whenever he looked up, got a pain in his neck and the doctor said the cure was never to look up. In Ghent the quack would have said "look up", the pain was worth it.

Look up and say ahh

Standing in front of St Bavo's Cathedral with its imposing Gothic style tower and looking up towards The Belfry you can see examples of 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th century Flemish architecture. Go down to the quays or walk along the canals and you can see guild and warehouses dating from the 1100's. But the ancient is common in Ghent; in fact it has more historic buildings than any other Flemish city including Bruges. To try to ignore them would be murder if not impossible.

A painful, long drawn out affair

The people of Ghenr have never been too keen on being told what to do which led to the odd rebellion and riot. This somewhar interrupted construction of some of the most important buildings. The Town Hall, taking 400 years to build, is a wonderful mish-mash of styles and the magnificent Cloth Hall, started in the 1400's, was only completed early this century.

The hangings always draw the crowds

The merchants, being flush with cash, arrracted artists from all over Flanders. Wirhout doubt the greatest example of Flemish art and one of the world's masterpieces is the "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" by Jan and Hubert

van Eyck in St Bavo's Cathedral. But Ghent is crammed with museums and galleries exhibiting art and artifacts from the 14th century on. To attempt to view all the hangings 🚶 would kill you.

They die to get into The Counts Castle

It wasn't always the case and even the Counts of Flanders found the castle so unwelcoming they moved out leaving it as a place of execution Nowhere was sacred, including the crypt which was used for the occasional eye gouging. Today the torture chamber is Ghents most popular sightseeing artraction.

On a short break you'd be stretched

For all its turnultuous past Ghent is a very laid-back, friendly city. On a short break it would be torture to try to do everything so spare yourself the pain; take in as much as you can handle then come back and see the rest.

That way you'll expand your mind without being stretched.

I'd like to explore Flanders from the cor of my own home. Please send me your video and a full colour brochure.	
Name	
Address	
*	
Postcode	
Telephone	IGI
The Belgine Tousies Office	-

The Belgian Tourist Office, 29 Princes Street, London W1R 7RG

For details of Ghent Breaks phone 07000 Flanders

Arafat cold-shoulders Israel as tension builds over West Bank

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has instructed his officials to break off all contacts with Israel as part of the growing confrontation over the limit-ed scale of the Israeli withdrawal on the West Bank planned for this week and the building of a Jewish settlement at Har Homa in East Jerusalem.

"Israel is pushing us into a corner, making us despondent," said Mohammed Dahlan, the senior Palestinian police official in Gaza. "The street is heating up and is about to boil."

Israel announced unilaterally last week that it was pulling out of 9 per cent of the West Bank in the first stage

6 Israel is pushing us into a corner... the street is heating up and is about to boil 9

of a three-part withdrawal to be concluded by the middle of 1998. Palestinians say they expect to control 30 per cent of the West Bank at this stage and 90 per cent of the rest of it by the time the withdrawal ends.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, who is on a visit to Russía, appears to have miscalculated in much the same way he did over the Is-raeli withdrawal from Hebron last year by assuming Mr Arafat would be grateful for whatever he could get. Instead, the Palestinian leader has evidently decided that he has the

international support to demand more. A sign of anger in the Arab world and of growing tension between Israel and Jordan - is an angry letter sent by King Hussein to Mr Netanyahu which declares: "You are destroying the peace process and I haven't an ounce of trust in you." In the past King Hussein was the Arab leader most sympathetic to Mr Netanyahu. The Israeli leader replied:



Through the line: A Palestinian mother carrying her child past Israeli soldiers near Hebron yesterday

There is no place for this criticism and no place for this tone."

Already there are signs of increasing violence. A 19-year-old soldier at an Israeli settlement near Hebron was stabbed more than 20 times yesterday. Earlier 10 Palestinians were injured by Israeli soldiers as they demonstrated against the construction of a road to be used by settlers, also near Hebron.

Mr Netanyahu is adamant that he will not increase the extent of the Is-

raeli withdrawal above 9 per cent in the first phase. In the Hebron agreement in January the Israeli leader claimed that one of his achievements was to give Israel the right to determine the size of the area from which it would withdraw. The Oslo accords say Israel is to end the occupation of the West Bank.

This ambiguity was always likely to lead to a crisis. Mr Arafat may have decided that it is better, in the aftermath of the United Nations Security Coun-

cil vote by 14 to one against the building of Har Homa, to force a battle with Netanyahu now, rather than wait. President Bill Clinton said in Washington that the American veto of the UN resolution should not be interpreted as meaning that the US supported settlements, but he added that the Palestinians would be making a "terrible mistake" if they resorted to violence. Palestinian leaders were angered by Israel's unilateral decisions on the West Bank and

on Har Homa. Yasser Abed Rabbo, one of their negotiators, said after meeting with Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister: "... the Israelis don't want to talk. They just want to dictate terms.

Photograph: Reuters

Israeli analysts are unclear how far Mr Arafat intends to go in bringing relations with Israel to crisis. They fear, however, that the start of construction at Har Homa next weekend may proof the Palestinian leader.

significant shorts

Missile 'evidence' for

flight TWA800 crash
Investigators into the crash last July of flight TWA800
have seized a videotape that could support claims that the aircraft was downed by a missile in either a terrorist attack

The FBI was granted a subpoena for the seizure late on Monday by a District Court in New York. The tape, which is likely to be viewed by a federal grand jury today, belonged to a former United Airlines pilot, Richard Russell. It is believed to show radar images of some object hurting towards the aircraft just before it exploded, killing all 230 aboard. Officials insist they have found no evidence that a missile struck the plane. They have dismissed a report published earlier this week in a California. newspaper, the Press-Enterprise, detailing what it said was new evidence that a missile penetrated the fuselage. Mr Russell, who assisted the newspaper's reporting, yesterday denounced the confiscation of his tape. "They took my property away, but that's the way they operate. It's a cover-up," he said.

David Usborne - New York

Human cloning 'unacceptable'

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said yesterday that any use of cloning techniques to create identical humans was unacceptable and suggested that experiments in this direction should be banned. Reuters - Geneva.

Radioactive fire in Japan

Japan's nuclear-power program suffered another embarrassment last night when fire broke out at a nuclear waste-handling facility. It was the second fire within 10 hours at the facility. No one was injured, but officials said the first fire exposed 10 of the 50 workers present to tiny amounts of radiation.

International editor of the year

Salima Ghezali of the Algerian weekly newspaper La. Nation has been chosen as the World Bress Review's International Editor of the Year for her coverage of fighting between Algeria's military-backed regime and Islamic militants.

AP - New York

US found spying in Germany

German officials confirmed yesterday that a United States diplomat had tried to recruit an official in Germany's Economics Ministry as a spy for Washington. The news magazine Der Spiegel reported at the weekend that the US pulled a CIA employee from its Bonn embassy after he was accused of spying, a first in post-war US-German

Time stands still for France

France failed to convince the rest of Europe to abandon the ritual which puts clocks forward an hour every March to give longer, lighter summer evenings. European Union ministers voted fourteen to one to retain the time change although they offered France the concession of a review of the legislation in 1999. Katherine Butler - Brussels

PAY YOUR MOTOR **AND** HOME BY BIT BIT, INTEREST FREE. No large lump sums to pay. No interest to pay. No need to hang about. Call now for details. General Accident MOTOR INSURANCE BUILDINGS & CONTENTS 0800 121 004 0800 121 000 * PAY BY INSTALMENTS INTEREST FREE MORTGAGE PAYMENT PROTECTION 0800 121 008 - TRAVEL 0800 121 007 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. 參素 Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR.

Beer town feels distinctly flat as brewers bottle out

Winter is many months old and the ice on the Milwaukee river is fractured and grubby. Appropriately, it is also strewn with empty beer bottles. This, after all, is Beer Town USA. If you think cars in Detroit and cigars in Havana, then what comes to mind in this city will

forever be the brown stuff. Or will it? They are still drinking quantities of beer here and a few folk are still making i. But these days the people of Milwaukee are mostly crying in it. Two of the city's greatest breweries. Schlitz and Pabst, are no more. Only Miller remains.

The beer heritage of Milwaukee, which sits on Lake Michigan, 100 miles north of Chicago, dates back to the early 1800s when beer-loving Germans were settling here at the rate of a thousand a week. By the century's end, brewing provided more jobs than any other industry. Beer was the fuel that built this still-handsome town and nourished families through generations.

Suds and sausage remain etched in the Milwaukee's heart. (For the latter, I recommend Usinger's Famous Sausage in the heart of downtown). Laverne and Shirley of the television sitcom of the same name - still in re-runs here - worked in the fictional Schotz brewery. The city's beloved baseball team, the Brewers, is soon to get a new home; it will he called Miller Stadium.

It was Schlitz that dreamed up the legendary slogan: "The beer that made Milwaukee famous." But then, in the early 1980s, after selling out to rival Strob, Schlitz split. Left behind was a huge and ornate

town-centre brewery that has to some of the loading bays but now been converted into high- a notice in the door of the gift priced apartments.

It was Jerry Lee Lewis among others who sang. "What made Milwaukee famous has made a loser outta me". Now Milwaukee is the loser. Even Old Milwaukee, a dark beer that remains popular country-wide, is brewed in Detroit. Miller, founded in 1880 as the Plank Road Brewery, is owned by Philip Morris, the out-of town conglomerate that gives also us Kraft cheese and the Marlboro

The latest agony, however, has been delivered by Pabst. Although its brand may be obscure internationally, Pahst was the city's first major brewery after its foundation by German im-migrants in 1840, only four years after the creation of the Wisconsin Territory. By the late 1880s, with Captain Federick Pabst at its head, Pabst had become the largest selling beer in the nation. Pabst Blue Ribbon actually had blue ribbons on its

bordes. In this century. Blue Ribbon grew into the beer of choice for blue-collar workers in the Midwest and especially in this heavily blue-collar city. With its blackened bricks and crenellated walls, the Pabst brewery looms from a hill above downtown like a Dickensian juil. A single chimney rises from the plant's heart with Pabst spelled

out in white ceramic tiles. Today, the plant is empty. Lorry trailers with the Blue Ribbon logo are still backed up a request for a Pabst earns a

shop and public beer garden says tersely: "Tours suspended until further notice." A few bulbs are burning inside, but the

brewery is silent. The end came in December last year. Pabst's owners since 1985, the S&P Corporation of California, contracted out the

6 They didn't just kill a bunch of jobs at a

brewery ... They killed a family 9

brewing of Blue Ribbon and closed its Milwaukee facility. Almost 300 jobs were lost as well as the health insurance of 700 former employers. Gone also was a bit of Milwaukee's civic soul. Wayne Watkins, a Pabst employee of 28 years, explains: "They didn't just kill a bunch of jobs for brewery work-

ers. They killed a family. The feeling of betrayal is palpable. Straight after the announcement, bars across the city held "drink it or dump it" Pabst nights to exhaust their stocks of Blue Ribbon. Few establishments will serve it now. Even in the posh Pfister Hotel, look of disgust. "We don't serve it any more," the server replies. That company is evil".

The anger extends to the office of the Mayor, John Norquist. With photographs behind his desk of himself downing beers with supporters, he reasons that the US, unlike Europe, does not practice industrial policies that might have given Pabst a prop to stay open. I press him, however. Was he a Pabst drinker before? Certainly. Will he drink it now? Cer-

tainly not. Proud natives urge me, how-ever, to visit one of the microbreweries that have recently mushroomed across the city. The big breweries may be leaving, they insist, but the brewing spirit of Milwaukee still lives.

I am happy to comply with a stop at a micro-brew restaurant called Rock Bottom, on the banks of the river. In the converted halls of an abandoned bank, Rock Bottom serves some ales brewed on-site that are delicious. I am puzzled, however, by the giant photographs on the walls of landscapes from the American West - Colorado peaks and sunsets in Utah.

Rock Bottom, I discover, is about right. This place has nothing to do with Milwaukee and its proud history of brewing. What it does represent is the slow homogenisation of America. It is the one-formulafor-all, shopping-mall princi-ple. Rock Bottom is just one more outlet of a company based in Boulder, Colorado and listed on the Nasdaq securities exchange. Poor Captain Pabst. How he must be spinning in his

media experts

Hong Kong

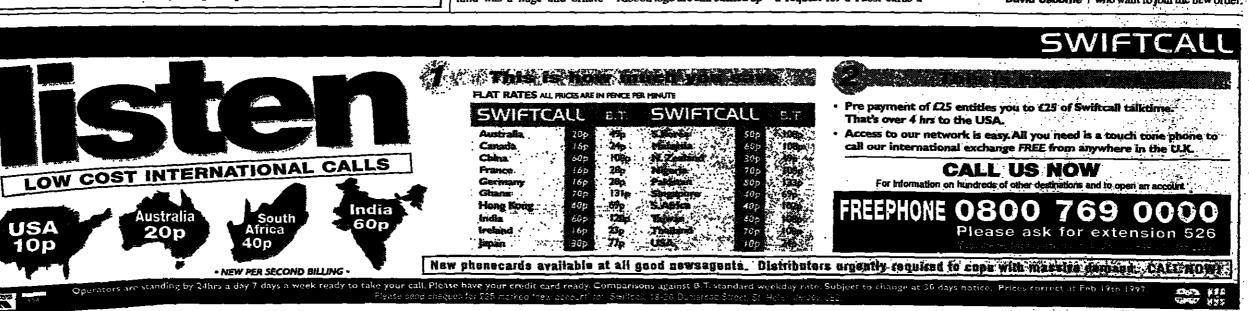
Irene Yau, who headed the information department of Chris Patten's Hong Kong administration until yesterday, will start work today sorting out the rather chaotic media relations of Tung Chee-hwa, who will head Hong Kong's first post-colonial government.

Announcing the appointment yesterday, Mr Tung said that Mrs Yau would be of "immense value" to his office, which has become notorious for its unresponsive media rela-

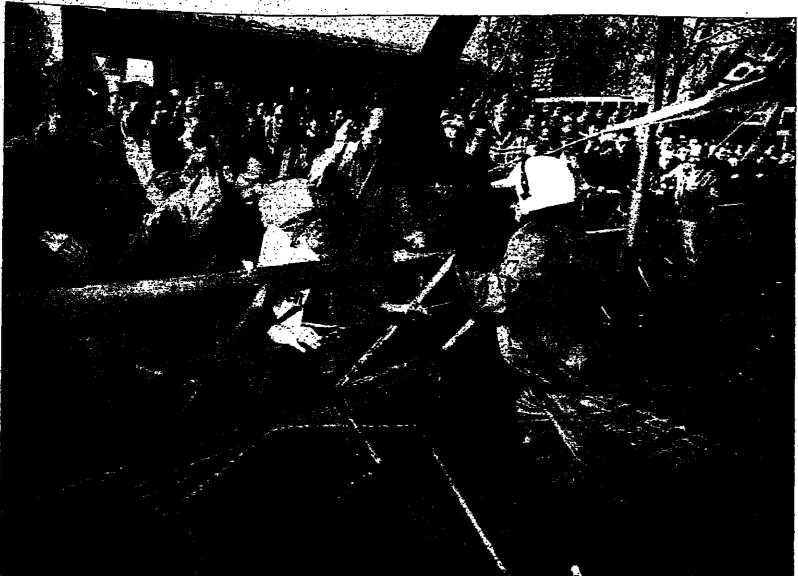
Mrs Yau, a veteran government media official who has good relations with the media. will head a new team that large ly consists of other former government information officers. She was due to retire, but has

been pressed back into service. Mr Time has made it clear that he intends to focus most of his media effort on the local press. But he broke the ice with the foreign media by giving an interview to CNN television. Foreign reporters requesting interviews have been asked to submit any articles written about the new chief executive for verting.

As well as appointing Mrs Yau, Mr Tung has managed to second Michael Suen, the Secretary for Home Affairs, to oversee policy co-ordination. Mr Patten originally refused to allow his policy secretaries to be seconded, but has relented in the face of the overwhelming pressure from civil servants who want to join the new order.



هكذا من الأصل



Manning the barricade: A police officer trying to push back a barrier broken down by protesting miners in the government district in Bonn Photograph: AFP

Angry miners fail to move king Kohl

Imre Karacs

in Japan

in Germany

for France

Tung

experts

The bell tolled for Helmut Kohl, rung by angry miners as they impaled an effigy of the Chancellor on the fence outside his office in Bonn. "Come out, you coward," screamed 10,000 burly men, but the man mountain remained unmoved.

He would not let himself be intimidated in this way, he said, cancelling a face-to-face meeting with union leaders. The message was communicated to Hans Berger, head of the min- ards to leave, they resolved to

peaceful gathering turned ugly. A group of miners made a dash

diminutive traffic police who had thought they had come for a picnic. A detachment of 6ft tall body-builders in riot gear rushed forward to stop the breach, only to be outflanked at another barrier a hundred yards away.

About 100 protesters pushed against the barricade and broke through, shattering the window of one police van and hurling eggs at the officers. The disciplined union members were straining at the leash. Ignoring the pleas of shop stewers' union, and relayed to the demonstrators by megaphone: a spot in the heart of the gov-At a stroke, the mood of the ernment district where no demonstrator had ever trod. "We stay here," they chant-

leader of the Greens, Josepha Fischer, to calm them down. Mr Fischer, no fan of fossil fuel himself, strolled casually into the melée from his office near by, and dispensed pacifist advice to anybody who would care to listen. "What the chancellery has done is a provocation," he said, "but you should not swallow the The miners applauded coal's fiercest enemy, and even-

tnally moved away. Government politicians, meanwhile, were under siege in their offices, giving the opposi-tion a monopoly to milk the crowd. Up popped Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democ-rats' parliamentary leader. "If Herr Kohl will not go to the people, then the people must go towards the chancellery, scar- ed. "We want work." It took the to him," he intoned. That went

enjoy the wholehearted apparently done a deal with Mr Kohl to take their supporters home and return to Bonn alone for the final talks about pit clopling the government's legisla-

تعكذا من الأصل

sures tomorrow. However, the troops who had been marched up the hill were refusing to be marched down again. Last night large numbers were insisting that they would stay exactly where they were.

The stage is thus set for the ultimate confrontation between the conservative government and the vanguard of what is left of the German proletariat. The miners, who fear job losses if the government implements its plan to halve coal subsidies, emerged from yesterday's skirmish as the moral victors. They now

only verbal - support of the opposition, who feel obliged to demonstrate solidarity by crip-

tive programme.
The Social Democrats, who run the coal regions and will shoulder a large proportion of subsidies under the new regime, walked out of talks with Mr Kohl over tax reforms in protest at the cuts. Without their backing, he is in danger of becoming a lame-duck chancellor for the rest of his tenure.

Bonn wraps Emu resolve in pragmatism

Imre Karacs

Yvette Cooper

The German government never tires of assuring the public that European monetary union will go ahead as scheduled in January 1999. Calling for a delay, it keeps warning its own friends, might become a selffulfilling prophecy.

"A debate about postpone-ment leads nowhere," Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, reiterated yesterday. Nevertheless, that is the debate that Germany has got, fuelled by various scenarios emerging from leaky government departments.

For, while they have been assuring Germans that postponement was not an option, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's aides have been busily planning escape routes. Version one, the meltdown scenario, foresces a day in the not-too-distant future when Bonn might have to cancel the project.

The result would be a leap in the value of the German mark. currently kept low by expecta-tions that it will give way to somewhat softer money. Other currencies, notably the lira, would no longer be held afloat by the mark, and would collapse.

While speculators would double their fortunes overnight, there would be a political fallout. Several European countries that have worked hard for years to come up to German standards, would rightly blame Germany for

ruining their economies. To avert this catastrophe. German officials have devised what they think is a wonderful compromise; monetary union would start on 1 January 1999 as scheduled, but "only on pa-per". Exchange rates of partic-

ipating currencies would be ating on schedule but the decilocked together gradually, starting with the most stable - the mark, French franc, Austrian schilling and Dutch guilder and bringing in the other coun-

tries as they make the grade. For the first year, therefore. the European Central Bank would only pretend to set interest rates and monetary targets across the core group. Its

order. The delay would be jus-

tified by commercial interests:

Shops have long been com-

plaining that the current tran-

sitional period, during which

they will have to juggle two cur-

rencies, is too long.
The final deadline of January

2002, when the euro is set to re-

place national currencies, would

still be kept. There would.

therefore, be no postponement,

as Mr Kohl might well be ar-

guing this time next year. Emu institutions could begin oper-

tricht criteria given the symbolreal work would begin a year ic significance attached to the criteria in Germany now." But James Mitchell of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "Germany is seen as the

anchor of Europe. Emu can't go ahead without Germany." However, public debate in Germany has taken "a pronounced anti-Emu turn," cording to the Director of the Bonn based Centre for European Integration Research. Speaking in London yesterday to a meeting organised by the Centre for European Policy Research, Jurgen von Hagen said: "EMU has never been Theo Waigel: 'Debate about popular in Germany. The move towards a single currency relied on two assumptions: that Gerlater than planned in 2000. The many would make the Maasbeauty of this arrangement is tricht criteria and that the that it would give the likes of German government could per-Italy and Spain an extra 12 suade the public to give up the months to put their houses in Deutschmark. Both assump-

tions are now in doubt."

sion about which countries are

Eric Fishwick of Nikko Eu-

rope said: "It is even possible

that other countries could go

ahead without Germany, so long

as Germany is committed to joining pretty quickly. The Ger-mans might see that as a better

alternative to fudging the Maas-

members would be delayed.

Mr von Hagen said that only 8 per cent of the German population believed there would be economic benefits from joining a single currency. However, the Kohl government had, he said, been extremely successful in equating monetary union and European integration. He said: "There is a long tradition in Germany: you can be anything, but you can't be against European integration. That is

Nato growth to cost £20bn

Tony Barber Europe Editor

Britain will have to pay about £200m a year as its share of funding Nato's expansion into central and eastern Europe. according to researchers. The British-American Security Information Council (Basic), a non-governmental organisa-tion, said its estimate was based on figures supplied by the Clinton administration to Congress in a report last month.

It was one of the first efforts at calculating the financial cost. of Nato enlargement to Britain, traditionally one of the main paymasters of the alliance. "The uestion for Ken Clarke and Gordon Brown is, will the £200m a year for Nato expansion be paid for by cutting other defence items, by cutting domestic spending or by in-

creasing public borrowing?"
Daniel Plesch, Basic's director,

Concern about the financial and diplomatic costs of Nato enlargement has risen in the United States and Western Europe since the alliance announced last year that it was set-ting a target date of 1999 for embracing new members. One of this century's most highly respected US diplomats, George Kennan, has questioned the need for enlargement, as have an increasing number of commentaries in influential US and

German newspapers.
The Clinton administration report to Congress indicated that the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and perhaps Slovenia were expected to become Nato's newest members. It estimated the cost of expansion at \$27bn-\$35bn (£16.9bn-£21.9bn)

Out of this figure, Nato's European members and Canada would be expected to pay \$12.5bn-\$15.5bn, with the US and the new member-states picking up the difference. According to Basic, Britain's individual contribution over the next 13 vears would be \$3.24bn-\$4.02bn - a figure derived from the fact that, after excluding the US contribution, Britain paid 25.93 per cent of Nato's budget in 1994.

Based on an exchange rate of \$1.50 to the pound, the cost to Britain over 13 years would therefore be £166m-£206m a year. If the present exchange rate of \$1.60 to the pound is used, the bill falls to an annual £156m-£193m.

Some of the main costs associated with Nato enlargement are those of making the com-

nications systems of new member-states compatible with those of existing members. Military strategists say it will also be necessary to upgrade the equipment of their ground forces.

Despite such costs, the al-liance's official line, spelled out in Washington last Monday by Malcolm Rifkind, is that Europe will be far worse off if Nato fails to expand eastwards. "We would have a line down the middle of Europe, just like the Iron Curtain ... Instead, we should be doing away with the division of Europe forever," the Foreign

Secretary said. He warned that, unless Nato absorbed new members, "local and regional alliances would spring up, in a frightening fac-simile of pre-Second World War

Want to invest tax-tree in world famous companies?

All it takes is a month and a With our new Direct Household Names PEP, you can make a tax-free investment in some of the best known companies around

(such as British Airways, Rolls Royce and Tesco), from just £25 per month. And it's easy - just call us now on the number below.

Phone lines are open 8am-8pm Monday-Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) and 10am-2pm Saturday.

Midland Bank (X)



CALL FREE: 0800 277 377



CHOOSE FROM 5 LEVELS OF COVER £29.50 Recovery only £38.00 Roadside assistance £69.00 Comprehensive Gold £93.00 £145.00 Total protection

Green Flag gives you

motoring assistance from

as little as 8p per day.

Call free now on 0800 001 353 quoting ref A3113

Green Flag 🐺

WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

atidiand Bank pic is regulated by the Personal Investment Authorize the only sell our own life assurance, persons and unit trusts. As with any investment reliables to stocks and shares, the prices of mosts and the income from them can go down as well as as and they may fall below the assurant originally invested. Free of tax mesos true of income and Capital Causs Tax. Tax

international

Yeltsin clears decks for cabinet reshuffle

Phil Reeve: Moscow

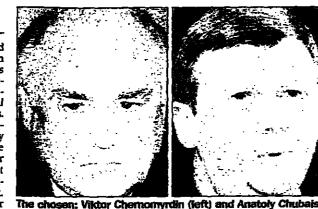
Boris Yeltsin has demanded that all but the top two men in his government should resign as a forerunner to a cabinet shakeup with which he intends firmauthority after months of illness.

Dozens of ministers and other top officials were yesterday ordered by presidential decree to give in their notice to clear the way for the announcement of a new cabinet, which is expected by the end of the week. The overhaul follows Mr

Yeltsin's hotly disputed decision to appoint his unpopular chiefof-staff. Anatoly Chubais, as number two in the government under the premier. Viktor Chemomyrdin. The political complexion of the new government was unclear yesterday, although - to the delight of the West - Mr Yeltsin said that he intends to press ahead moves towards a free market economy.

Yesterday's decree exempted Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Chubais who are now running the government in harness with Mr Yeltsin, giving rise to speculation that Russia is on a more liberal tack. Some incumbents seem certain to be kept on notably. Yegeny Primakov, the Foreign Minister, who has been spearheading resistance to Nato

expansion.
The Kremlin has been eyeing Russia's biggest liberal party,



pointment is a sign that Mr Yeltsin is no longer interested

Yabloko, although its leader. Grigory Yavlinsky, has been fiercely critical of Mr Yehsin and

will drive a tough bargain.

The shake-up is evidence that Mr Yeltsin is determined to impose his stamp of authority after eight months in which he was sidelined by ill-health, leaving policy in the hands of Mr Chubais, the president's daugh-ter, Tatyana, and a coalition of nking interests.

But it also indicated that Mr Yeltsin has all but abandoned the politics of consensus. While he was aiting. Mr Cherno-myrdin built bridges with the Communists and nationalists who dominate the State Duma, knowing the Kremlin might have to strike a deal with them if the president left office. But the majority of parliament despises Mr Chubais, and his ap-

headed pragmatist with a reputation for ruthlessness and with strong links with Russia's banking interests. Moreover, Mr Yeltsin's strategy usually has much more to do with maintaining power than ideology. As a result, government has zigzagged along, veering from policy to policy as expediency This year, Mr Yeltsin has no

presidential elections. But such

a conclusion is premature. Al-though Mr Chubais is a liberal

economist, he is also a hard-

election to worty about, so he may try to be more consistent. This will be difficult. In his address to parliament last week he outlined an agenda which included overhauling the tax code, pensions, the budget, housing subsidies, natural monopolies, and the military. But there are practical obstacles - from overwhelming red tape and corruption to powerful lobbies who have got rich quick in the new Russia, and will resist anything

peace-making. Yesterday Valentin Yuma-

shev, the journalist who ghost-

wrote Mr Yeltsin's first

autobiography, Against The

Grain, was appointed to replace

Mr Chubais as chief-of-staff to

the president. But most eyes

were on Mr Chubais's new role.

consensus among Western in-

stitutions that the arrival of

the 41-year-old St Petersburg in-

tellectual back in government indicates that Russia's political

pendulum has swung back to-wards free-market reforms and

tight fiscal policies. Mr Yeltsin

is generally thought to have

strayed from the path at times

fast year in an attempt to

appease nationalist and anti-

Western sentiment before the

There appears to be a broad

that threatens their interests. Moreover, election or not, he would be unwise to ignore the groundswell of resentment caused by Russia's economic disarray. This has deepened with the news of Mr Chubais' appointment. He is loathed for his role in Russia's huge privatisation programme between 1992 and 1994, which many complain handed state assets over to a chosen few, at the expense of the population.



Mask of uniformity: Green Party deputies - masked to give them identical appearance - sit in protest at the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, during a debate on cioning experiments yesterday

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP seeks to avoid investment in companies that harm people, wildlife or our world.



Instead, it seeks to invest in companies that deliver positive benefits to society.

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE PROFIT WITH PRINCIPLES?

The Briance Fro. Marc Stewardship PSF

The Friends Provident Stewardship PEP aims to invest in companies that make a positive contribution to the world we live in.

And to avoid companies whose business practices could be harmful to the planet and its people.

Yet this needn't mean avoiding a decent profit.

Over the past 5 years, Stewardship has out-performed the average return for all unit trusts, ethical or not

Just the kind of performance you would expect from Friends Provident, the UK's leading ethical investment company. which manages around £700 million of ethical investments.

Five year returns out-perform the average for all unit trusts."

Get on the Blue Line now, direct to Friends Provident.

The Blue Line is the fast no-hassle way to get the information you need about this product over the phone to help you make an informed decision.

You'll deal with friendly qualified people who will talk to you in clear

straightforward language.

Call 0800 00 00 80 now, or contact your financial adviser, and you'll find that your principles needn't stop you making

> The plus points of profit with principles

- = Proven track record with good growth prospects.
- All profits are tax-free.
- Invest a lump sum (minimum £1,000) or monthly payments of £50 or more.
- Managed by the UK's leading ethical
- investment company.
- · Investment in successful companies which are helping rather than harming the world.

Get on the Blue Line



We're here to take your call 8 to 8 Weekdays. 10 to 4 Weekends.

FRIENDS PROVIDENT

FRIENDS PROVIDENT THE BLUE LING LIMITED IS A REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE FRIENDS PROVIDENT MARKETING GROUP WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. THE VALUE OF A UNIT TRUST, AND ANY INCOME FROM IT, IS NOT GLIARANTEED AND CAN GO UP AND DOWN DEPENDING ON INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE. PILST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSAFILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST, TAX LEGISLATION MAY CHANGE BASED ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STEWARDSHIP UNIT TRUST OVER 5 YEARS TO THE 28TH FEBRUARY 1997, ALL PIGURES ON AN OFFER TO BUD BASIS WITH GROSS INCOME REPOVESTED. SOURCE HISW.

YOUR CALL MAY BE RECORDED FOR YOUR SECURITY.

حكذا من الأصل

Britons urged to flee unrest in Albania

Agencies -- The Foreign Office yesterday urged all British nationals to leave Albania, as the rebellion spread to the north of the country.

In a message broadcast on the BBC World Service, the Foreign Office said the longer the delay, the more difficult and dangerous any departure might become. Eighty to 100 British nationals are believed to be working in northern Albania, av v from the serious troubles in the south. where security has worsened.

"All British nationals should tell the British Embassy in Tirana what they intend to do," the Foreign Office said. "At the moment, most commercial airlines and ferry companies are operating normally, but this

may change."
It urged all British nationals to leave Albania "by the first available commercial means." The list of those in Albania included journalists, aid workers, businessmen and "one or two intrepid tourists".

The British charity Children in Distress, which operates a children's hospital in Saranda, southern Albania, said that it had withdrawn all British and Irish staff. The hospital now has no children left in its wards.

Albania's president, Sali Berisha, said yesterday that he had appointed a new prime minister. Bashkim Fino, an economist from the southern town of Girokaster and a member of the main opposition Socialist Party, replaces Aleksander Meksi, a member of the ruling Democratic Party, who resigned last month as the unrest erupted.

ber of the Socialist Party to the premiership was seen as a conession to the opposition, although they have little or no influence over the highly-localised rebel groups in the south.

Mr Berisha told Italy that a

The appointment of a mem-

new government would be formed within 24 hours, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

The president, his ruling Democratic Party and nine opposition parties signed an accord at the weekend to establish a national unity government and hold early elections by June in an attempt to find a political solution to the insurrection.

Political parties in Tirana agreed on Monday to split cabmet posts evenly between the Democratic Party and the osition. However, the two sides have been deadlocked on who gets the key portfolios, political sources said The country's armed unrest

spread from the south vesterday, vith residents of a major town north of Tirana saying insurgents there have raided a military base and carted away weapons and ammunition.

A man identifying himself as the mayor of Bajram Curri said in a telephone call that insurgents took "a lot" of arms and munitions from the base in the town, 135 miles north of the capital, in a morning raid.

Public takes revenge as stun belt shocks convicts into line

Rupert Cornwell Washington

America's passion for marrying punishment and high technology knows few bounds. The death penalty has been embellished with the gas chamber, the electric chair and most re-cently, lethal injections. Now comes another new variation on an old theme: the electrically controlled chain gang.

After a 30-year interval, shackled gangs of convicts have lately reappeared on the public highways or stone quarries of half a dozen US states - sop

IMPOTENCE

ERECTION PROBLEMS

PENILE SIZE PROBLEMS

FLAGGING SEX DRIVE?

POOR TECHNIQUE

PREMATURE EJACULATION

INABILITY TO MAINTAIN ERECTION

SORENESS, IRRITATION, SENSITIVITY.

to an angry public's insistence metal fetters but a fearsome de-that criminals are not only pun-ished, but are visibly humiliated leaves its victims writhing on the as well. Hitherto, however, prisoners have been chained in the traditional way, either to each other, or individually by the ankies with a chain too short to allow them to run. Armed guards make sure the men do not fight

or attempt to escape.

Soon, however, this technology may be obsolete. Starting next month, the prison authorities in Queen Anne's county, Maryland, 50 miles east of Washington, may send out chain gangs controlled not by

FROM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

IMPOTENCY CAN STRIKE AT ANYTIME

The facts speak for themselves, any adult male can become mpotent at any age and for many reasons, stress, anxiety, depression, diabetes and illness can all cause impotency and

At the Harley Street Wellman Clinic we specialise in treating these problems in a discreet and understanding atmosphere. our consultants are here to help you with proven

FREE CONSULTATION

0171 580 3033

HARLEY STREET WELLMAN CLINIC

57 HARLEY STREET, LONDON W.1.

vice called a stun belt, that leaves its victims writhing on the ground in agony.

Fitted to individual prisoners, the belt comes with two prongs

and a battery. From 100 yards away a guard merely has to push a button to send a 50,000 volt surge for up to eight seconds through a prisoner's body. A very low amperage means the charge is not fatal. But it incapacitates for up to 10 minutes, completely overriding the neuro-muscular system and causing loss of control of blad-

Stun Tech Inc. the Cleveland firm which makes them, has al-ready sold 1,100 belts to prisons and the federal marshals service. and so dreaded are they by prisoners that they have been activated on only 14 of the 30,000

occasions they have been worn. Amnesty international and other human rights groups have tried to have the belts banned as "cruel, degrading and inhuman" and possible instruments of torture, but in vain. Not only do stun belts work, they also save money. Though they cost \$600 to \$700 (£375-437) apiece, the reduced need for guards more than recoups that outlay.



Chill that sundered the world into two

Fifty years ago today, a conflict that had been rumbling for years turned into a full-scale war. But this was not a normal confrontation: this was the Cold War, the ideological, military and political divide that dominated the second half of the 20th century.

It fell to President Harry S

It fell to President Harry S Truman to launch the US response to Soviet expansionism, after two years of growing tensions. He announced Washington would "support free people who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures". The implications were inge: the US would abrogate the isolationism that had governed its foreign policy before the Second World War, and into which it had started to retreat; and it would join in a global conflict with the Soviet Union. "I would not recommend it except that the alternative is much more serious."

said the president.

Truman's rallying cry led to Marshall aid, the huge programme of economic assistance to Europe; to the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 1949, the defence pact that linked America to Europe; and the return of US troops to Europe.

None of this was a foregone conclusion in 1947. After the Second World War ended, there had been a period of uncertainty between the West and the Soviet Union, which had been, after all, a wartime ally. America tried a variety of approaches, but Russia was aggressively promoting communism in Eastern Europe and a confrontation was building up.

was building up.
Truman's words were to
some extent prompted by
Britain, then a major power.
Britain had been providing military and economic assistance to
Greece and Turkey, both threat-



In the first of a series of articles Andrew Marshall looks back fifty years to Truman

by Communist subversion. But the disastrous winter of 1946-47 and Britain's economic collapse led it to withdraw this in early 1947. America was stepping in to fill the gap left by Britain, an event repeated many times over the following decades

The underpinnings for a tougher stance had already been laid by diplomats in Moscow who believed the Soviet Union could not be restrained in conventional diplomatic ways. George Kennan of the State Department, and Sir Frank Roberts, Britain's ambassador in Moscow, had both written long analyses of the situation, and reached similar conclusions. The result was the policy of containment, which the West maintained for

The Cold War's end has left a security vacuum in Europe. Nato is trying to fill it by expanding; Russia resists and warns of a new Cold War. Some in the West are warning that the new threat is China, or Islam. But no great issue has emerged to replicate the global struggle between West and East.

between West and East.

The institutions that flowed from Truman's speech, US forces in Europe and the transatiantic alliance, are still there; but for how much longer?

Notice Accounts

Alliance & Leicester

Halifax

Abbey National

Nationwide

Woolwich



China connection snags CIA chief

Rupert Cornwell

President Bill Clinton's former national security adviser, Anthony Lake, yesterday finally embarked on his bitterly contested and much delayed Senate confirmation hearings to be head of the Central Intelligence Agency—only to become the newest feature act in the great campaign fundraising scandal which currently grips Washington.

War. Some ig that the or Islam. Semented to the CIA directorship has been strewn with boulders, ranging from the personal animosity of Richard the personal animosity of Richard struggle struggle who heads the Intelligence Committee, to charges he misled Congress on allowing Iranian aid to the Bosnian Muslims in 1994.

But these objections may pale beside questioning of Mr Lake over his handling of – or his failure to handle – the "China connection", and the warnings voiced by the FBI that Peking, directly or indirectly, was trying to channel money to the Clinton/-Gore re-election campaign and

various Congressional races in 1996.

That controversy reached feverpitch on Monday when the White
House and the FBI clashed publicly
over accusations that the bureau had
informed the White House of its suspicions, but instructed officials on the
National Security Council, chaired by
Mr Lake, that the President not be
told. "The President should know,"
Mr Clinton declared — only for the
FBI to issue an astonishing public
statement contradicting him, and insisting it had placed no restrictions
on who should be informed of what
China might be up to.

China might be up to.

But even if Mr Lake is certain of a crilling during his scheduled six days

testimony, the fact that the hearings are even taking place is a notable victory. For two months Mr Shelby blocked them, hoping he would force Mr Clinton to withdraw the nomination. In the end, however, the Alabama Senator had to yield as several Republicans as well as Democrats insisted Mr Lake should have the

chance to plead his case.

Indeed, harring major surprises, he should be confirmed. Two of the 11 Republicans on the 20-strong committee have already said they would support him, ensuring a majority, and the full Senate should follow suit.

If he does win the job, Mr. Lake

the full Senate should follow suit.

If he does win the job, Mr Lake would be the agency's fifth director in as many turbulent years, a period which saw the devastating Ames affair, charges that it discriminated against women, and growing doubt on Capitol Hill whether post-Cold War America needs a CIA at all.

The needs of the CIA, on the other hand, could not be clearer; strong, steady and stable leadership to restore battered morale and prestige, and a director who understands the world of intelligence and has unquestioned access to, and influence on, the President.

On the last two counts at least, Mr Lake qualifies without argument, Discreet as a spymaster should be, he was probably Mr Clinton's closest foreign policy adviser during his first term.

policy adviser during his first term.

The more valid objections are different – that Mr Lake's past involvement with policy-making render him incapable of providing the objective and sometimes unwelcome information and analysis to the White House that is the CIA's prime task, and that he lacks the management experience of running the unwieldy \$30bn bureaucracy which is the US intelligence establishment.

Post-KGB spies keep the old flag flying

Phil Reeves Moscow

It is smaller and more discreet than in its Cold War hey-day, but Russia's replacement for the KGB, broken up in 1991, is still very much in business, and has an estimated tens of thou-

sands of employees to prove it.

Nor does it make much secret of that fact.
Only a few months ago, Nikolai Kovalyov, head of the Federal Security Service, boasted that the service was monitoring 400 foreign spies and 39 locally recruited Russian spies.

and 39 locally recruited Russian spies.

The agency, known as the FSB, has an estimated 75.000 employees which, though small when compared with the network of the KGB of 400.000 agents in the mid-Eighties, is still—a considerable force, and one which includes elite armed forces.

Still based at the Lubyanka in central Moscow, the security services play a diminished role in the daily life of most Russians, and have switched their focus to embrace the conditions in post-Soviet Russia – for instance, the mafia, new technology, weapons-smuggling and industrial espionage. Yet, particularly in more-backward regions, they remain powerful and occasionally intrusive.

In the past few years, there have been increasing warnings that – despite hefty budget and staff cuts – the Russian security services are regaining their strength. The head of Germany's counter-intelligence service. Hasjoerg Geiger, last year accused Russia of espionage of Cold War proportions, claiming that KGB-type spies were working under the guise of businessmen. And British parliamentary committees have, on several occasions, complained about an increase in Russian spying. Last month MPs warned of the risk that Russians would infiltrate the security services by preving on impoverished agents.

The FSB has, however, also suffered some major setbacks, particularly in Chechnya. The security services ran the war and eventually suffered the humiliation of seeing Moscow's troops withdraw.

Its influence on the Kremlin - once huge - has fallen off with the ousting of several hardline generals. Last month, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President, fired the FSB's deputy director Colonel General Vasily Trotimov, accusing him of financial irregularities. He was reportedly involved in an investigation into a scandal in which two of the President's campaign officials were caught leaving the White House with \$500,000 (£312,000), just before last year's presidential election.

Shortly before that sacking came news that two FSB officers had been detained for suspected drug trafficking. Even last year's spying row with Britain was far from an outright triumph for the service; it had wanted nine British expulsions, but - under pressure from the Russian Foreign Ministry - settled for four.

PRIME 90

Does your savings account measure up?

Are your savings earning the rate they deserve? Prime 90 has some of the most attractive rates currently available for a branch based notice account. Take a look at the table and you'll see just how much higher our rates are.

What's more, with its tiered interest rates, when your investment reaches the next tier your money will automatically earn interest at the new, higher rate.

Whether you're investing a large or small amount

Prime 90 is an ideal home for your money.

Gross p.a.	£10,000 Gross p.a.	Gross p.a.
 4.95%	5.65%	5.70%
n/a	4.90%	5.15%
3,30%	4.00%	4.55%
4.75%	5.40°5	5.60%
3.50%	4.20%	4.80%

You can withdraw your money with 90 days' notice or immediately with 90 days' loss of interest on just the amount withdrawn.

Moreover, once a

year, you can make

one penalty - free withdrawal of up to 10% of your balance.

Apply today

To take advantage of Prime 90's interest rates, visit your local branch of Alliance & Leicester today. For details of your nearest branch call 0800 412 214.



PRIME 90

forms and conditions: faits quoted are for the best paying branch based notice account from the providers fead above and include Dondate strenge appearance virtualization of the providers of the best paying branch based 1997, interest with the paying less of the six of the range determined by the informal Revenue (currently 20%), or subject to the range of the paying of the paying t

2 Dac 1996. Enquirers must be aged 16 or over, in order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves me right to soline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to totalus. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Lects 1598 2RF and Direct reserves me and/or recorded LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Clarect Account. The costs comprise less of £8 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account. Nat West Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs comprise less of £9 per month. All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rate for overtrains to 16 2590 is 12.65% EAR. All information based on authorised overtraints of 5 per month our correct at 11 March 1997.

**Limber VISPC 4TP County Co

direct

Banking with First Direct is free because we never charge Cheque Account customers for everyday banking transactions, even if you're overdrawn. And all our customers automatically receive an overdraft up to £250 – also free of any fees. So compared to other high street bank accounts you're better off with First Direct from day one. We're a member of the HSBC Group which is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, and in the course of a year you'll find we offer more cost effective current account banking. And the service we provide means you benefit in many other ways too.

By telephone, 24 hours a day

We provide the ultimate in convenience. You can bank with us at any time, 365 days (and nights) of the year, from wherever there's a telephone, in your home, office or car. And all UK calls are charged at local rates.

Personal and professional service

Every call is answered by our Banking Representatives. They have all they need at their fingertips to deal with your day-to-day banking needs. And when you require more specialised assistance, such as a loan, they can instantly refer you to someone who can help.

Getting cash is easy



Every Cheque Account customer receives the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from over 11,500 cash mechines around the UK, Including those of Midland, it also guarantees cheques for £100 and includes the Switch payment facility.

So is paying bills

Our service includes a free bill payment service. Simply call, tell us who to pay, how much and when, and we do it. This means you can arrange to pay all your bills at the most convenient time without the need to keep having to remember to organise it.

A full banking service with more benefits

As well as our Cheque Account we offer saving, borrowing, travel and insurance services cost effectively by telephone. Take saving; our rates are always competitive, we offer transfers to and from your Cheque Account. So your money is always working hard without the need for you to do the same.

We work hard to maintain the service

The best people to demonstrate the quality of a banking service are its customers ~ 87%° of ours have recommended us to their friends and colleagues in the last 12 months.

Opening an account is easy too

We also appreciate how daunting changing bank accounts can be.

So we make it easy. Easy to open a First Direct account, then easy to arrange for your salary to be paid in and easy for all your standing orders and direct debits to be transferred to your account. And it's easy (and free) to find out more right now. Call us on 0800 24 24 24

Why pay to bank when First Direct is free?

I	2100					
l	580	138			Annual current ecount charge	
	082				(annual fees for use of \$250 overdraft)	
ı	£70	5 3 3 3				
ı	260	7 1 7	esn.	PER		
ł	£50					
I	£40					
ı	£30				غا پدید	
	- £20			A		_ 3
	£10				e a Chara	7
ı	£0.	3:0%±1;	25.7		All the state of t	
		Lloyds Classic	NatWest Current Plus	Barclay Bank Accoun	Cheque	- ,
			Fius	Accoun	C AGCOUNT .	

If you're paying more are you with the right bank?

2 0800 **24 24 24**

Call tree or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title
Surrame
Forename(s)

٠,	Sumame
Ī	Forename(s)
İ	UK Address
. !	
	Postcode
٠,	

Jean Dréville

Artists who refuse to be categorised are usually the most interesting, though they pay for their independence by a certain public and especially professional benign neglect. Such was the fiercely individual nature of a fine film director. Jean Dréville, whose utter uniqueness in the world of French cinema is equalled only by that of

Perhaps his uncompromising character was the result of having escaped the rigours of formal French education: he was a sensitive child, and his sympathetic father, Alexandré, a mining engineer but also a poet and journalist, allowed him to have private lessons at home. As a youth he was interested in art and photography, and he began his working life as a draughtsman, poster designer and pho-tographer. His father also introduced him to the profession of journalism, and in the early Twenties Jean Dreville founded three reviews of the cinematic art, of which Cinegraphie (1925-27), a counterblast to the triviality of Ciné pour tous, became the first serious magazine of the cinema, not only in France, but in Europe and the world.

In a rare 1976 interview. Dréville describes the problems of early movie appreciation:

In the Twenties, people were attracted by a film's title or by a favourite actor. The director was of no importance to the general public even great artists like Fritz Long were not credited on posters or in reviews, that just outlined the store. Only Cenot credited on possers or in reviews, that just outlined the story. Only Cecil B. DeMille ("Cecil Billet de Mille") and a few other movie tycoons were granted that privilege. But the critics in those days felt they had a duty to educate the public, and introduced technical terms like travelling [tracking shot]. "subjective cinema" and jondu-enchaine [landissolve or cross-fade], or enthused about the first uses of flash-back.

the general public began to recognise and respect the role of directors like Abel Gance, Marcel L'Herbier and the voune Rene Clair.

Among the contributors to Cinegraphie were Alberto Cavakanti, Edmond Gréville, Henri Chomette - the pseudonym of René Clair's younger brother, less well-known, so inevitably nicknamed by Dreville

"Clair Obscur". The great Sur-realist poet Robert Desnos followed Dreville's example, writing brilliant innovatory film criticism for a wide range of newspapers until his deportation and death in 1944. Indeed, nearly all the Surrealists were influenced by Dréville and created epoch-making short films and texts that used cinematic techniques of cutting and distortion.

Jean Dréville began his cinematic career by making shorts.

including the first documentary about the making of a film: the 1928 Autour de l'argent. which followed the day-by-day creation of Marcel EHerbier's L'Argent (1929). During the Thirties, he made a string of successful comedies including Touche-à-tout, whose title Dréville used as a sly reference to himself - Jack of All Trades: and, one might add, Master of

In the late Thirties films about Russia were popular. with their appeal to the Front Populaire, and Dreville cashed in with Troika sur la piste blanche (1937) and Nuits blanches de St Petershourg (1938). In the same year, he shot a remake of Raymond Bernard's 1927 silent feature Le Joneur d'échecs ("The Chess Player"): Bernard was one of the directors he had praised in Cinegraphic.

war period. Dréville turned to films. Nineteen forty-two saw the success of Les Affaires sont les affaires ("Business is Business"), a slyly ironic comedy about wartime profiteering. In 1945 appeared La Ferme du pendu with Arletty - one of the early films noirs. La Bataille de l'eau lourde ("The Heavy Water Bat-tle") was a smash hit in 1948, a spy thriller set in occupied Norway in documentary style, about the Allied attempts to wipe out a Nazi heavy-water factory. It is one of Dreville's most perfect films, later made into The Heroes of Telemark (1965) by Anthony Mann, with its su-perb location shots ruined by an insipid Hollywood "love interest". These realistic compositions led Dréville to produce some fine aviation spectaculars like Escale à Orly (1953) and Normandie-Niemen (1960). But there was always a lighter

vein of music and laughter, especially after Dréville's collaboration with the popular singer, lyricist and actor Noël-Noël, with whom he made La Cage aux rossignols ("Cage of Nightingales", 1945) and above all Les Casse-pieds ("Tiresome Types", 1948), a typically sar-castic squib about the boredoms of life in high society. It won the Prix Louis-Deliuc and the Grand Prix du Cinéma Français.

Dréville had always been a fan of Abel Gance, whose Napoleon he reviewed in 1927. He too made a magnificent excursion into historical films. in La Reine Margot (1954) with Jeanne Moreau, still a young starlet, as Marguerite de Valois and the unforgettable Françoise Rosay as Catherine de Médicis. Dumas' novel has a very turgid plot, but Dréville slices through



malding Roumanie, terre d'amour, 1930

Photograph: Kevin Brownlow Collection

portraits of royalty worthy of Goya. Margot, said by Montaigne and Brantôme to have been the most beautiful woman of her time, has some nude scenes; we do not, alas, see Jeanne Moreau in these, but a quite satisfactory stand-in.

The French television Canal Plus had the nerve to re-issue During the Second World the opacities with crisp wit. this masterpiece in the same War and in the immediate post-sharp, cutting and irreverent week, May 1994, when Patrice

Chéreau's inflated mega-project thentic historical reconstrucof the same title, with a sulky Istion. Jean Dréville, the neabelle Adjani, knocked the glected independent, won the French public dead with boreencounter hands down. dom. Forty years on, the more James Kirkup modest resources of Jean Dréville and a fine cast of sup-

Jean Dréville, film director: born Vitry-sur-Seine, France 20 September 1906; married secondly and an already over-acting, gri-macing Luis de Funès as René achieved a superb piece of au-1960 Véronique Deschamps (one daughter); died Vallangoujard 5

tician's practice, he could see

There were other clashes of

a more political nature on the

media - particularly on the Welsh media which covers sport

with almost religious fervour.

He and Peter Hain, who successfully led opposition to the involvement of South African

rugby teams in Britain, con-

perfectly well.

writer.

returning to commercial art, he joined the Perlowin Advertising Agency on Madison Avenue, later transferring to paper supplements. Success prompted him to set up his own two former cartoonist friends from the comic-book field, Bob Lubbers and John Celardo, who would later take on fronted each other publicly on the Tarzan strip. The volume many occasions. Nothing excit of work was so great that, ed him more than debating despite enlarging the agency to 17 artists. Drake quit from

exhaustion. Wishing to try his hand at newspaper strip work, but realising that the writing of a dai-ly serial was beyond him, he contacted Eliot Caplin. Caplin was the younger brother of the top American strip cartoonist, Al Capp, who drew the hilarious hill-billy strip Li7

Stan Drake

Stan Drake was one of the most surprisingly versatile car-toonists in the history of the American comic strip, and at the same one of the least known by name in Britain.

His talent in drawing newspaper strips stretched from the daily soap-opera The Heart of Julies Jones to the joke-a-day domesticity of Blondie, two strips so vastly different in art technique that in appearance it seems impossible that they have stemmed from the same pen, Jay Kennedy, the current comics editor at King Features Syndicate, paid an extraordinary tribute to Drake's drawings when he said that Drake's craftsmanship was

outstanding.
"His control of the pen was so great," said Kennedy, "that you could enlarge one of his two-inch drawings to a poster the size of the door, and every nuance would be there as if he had drawn the poster that size to begin with.

Drake was born in Brooklyn in 1921, later moving with his family to New Jersey. After college he attended the Art Sm-dents League in New York where he studied anatomy under their famous tutor George Bridgman. Drake was 18 years old, but was already a published black-and-white artist turning out illustrations for the 10-cent pulp magazines Popular Detective and Popular Sports. He had also started to contribute strips to the ballooming comic-book industry, writing, drawing and lettering for the munificent sum of seven dollars per page. He also worked for the young Stan Lee, later the fabled editorial impresario of Marvel Comics but then a simple strip-

Drake joined the army just before America entered the Second World War, and was duly discharged in 1946 after active service in the Pacific theatre of war. Immediately the Johnstone and Cushing Agency, which specialised in producing strip-cartoon advertisements for the Sunday newsagency in collaboration with

Abner. No artist, Caplin had become an expert writer of strips, and had created a highby popular romantic series en-titled Abbie & Slats, which was drawn by the brilliant stylist Raeburn Van Buren. This strip contained a sprinkling of comedy, and Caplin was keen to attempt a more serious romantic drama that would latch on to the then popular soap-opera serials

of American radio. The result, Drake drawing Caplin writing, was The Heart of Juliet Jones, which made its daily début during March 1953. It opened with a record starting sale to 90 newspapers, eventually rising to over 600, and won the National Cartoonists Society Best Story Strip Award in 1969, 1970 and 1972 The sophisticated story-line was matched by Drake's artwork. which was not only realistic, but frequently used differing art techniques, including unusual

tinting.
With the decline in popularity of dramatic newspaper strips, Drake switched his style completely when the artwork of Blondie became available. This famous strip, created by Murat (Chie) Young in 1930, was the epitome of home-spun humour, built around the suburban fam ily Bumstead; smart wife Blondie, half-daft hubby Dag-wood, and their kids, Baby Dumpling and Cookie. Written by the late Chic Young's son Dean, Drake illustrated the gags to perfection as belitted the most frequently filmed strip in history; 28 features between



the world: Drake's Slondie Picture: Denis Gifford Collection

1938 and 1951. Blondie was played by the pretty actress Penny Singleton while the co-median Arthur Lake played Dagwood. Drake's expert artwork helped maintain Blondie as the highest syndicated strip in the world, touching on 2,000 newspapers a day.

Drake was an expert hobby golfer, and turned his favourite drawing instructive illustrations for Golf Digest, but he will be remembered best as a cartoonist whose talents spanned the two extremes of the strip cartoon.

Denis Gifford

Stanley Drake, cartoonist: born New York 9 November 1921; died Norwalk, Connecticut 10 March

Wilf Wooller

Wilf Wooller was a sportsman pur excellence who displayed. on and off the field of play, a combative spirit shot through with self-belief. An all-rounder, he was capped 18 times for Wales at rugby. He captained Glamorgan County Cricket Club for more than a decade, played soccer briefly for Cardiff City and represented Wales at squash.

During the 1960s and 1970s his uncompromising support for keeping sporting links with South Africa when apartheid was at its most intense sat uneasily with Wales's tolerant culture - a culture made real by the rich ethnic mix of African. Somali and Chinese communities in Cardiff's docklands. Yet. in print and on the air, he never wavered in propounding a point of view some felt gave aid and comfort to an enemy.

Wooller was a man of charm and a man of arrogance. He was



born at Rhos-on-Sea on the North Wales coast and attended Llandudno County School and Rydal School, one of Wales's few public schools. where a shrewd rugby coach switched him from the pack to the back division. At Cam-

bridge he took a degree in An-

throploogy and won three rugby Blues in 1933 to 1935 and cricket Blues in 1935 and 1936. He was a key member of

Wales's three-quarter line, making his début in 1933 when his country won at Twickenham for the first time in more than 20 years, He captained Wales in the 1939 clash with "the old enemy" when Wales won by a soli-tary try. His role in Wales's 13-12 victory over New Zcaland in 1935 was decisive; injury had reduced waies to 14 - no replacements were permitted in those days - but his shrewd kicking led to two tries that scaled an historic victory.

On the cricket field he swung the ball worryingly, batted tenaciously and excelled as a close fielder at a time when protective gear was almost nonexistent. He first took the field for Glamorgan in 1938 and played his last match for the

county 24 years later. He cantained the side from 1947 to 1960, with 1948 a golden year when Glamorgan won the County Championship for the first time. He became secretary of Glamorgan County Cricket Club in 1961 and was elected president 30 years later. Although never called up for service with England he was a Test.

selector from 1955 to 1961. There was a brief flirtation with the round ball game as cenrre iorward with Cardin City 1939 and he played squash for made pocket calculator. the national team.

At the start of the Second World War, together with friends from Cardiff's rugby fraternity, he enlisted as a gunner with the 77th Heavy Anti-Arcraft Regiment. In 1940 - the days of the "Phoney War" - he turned out for an Army XV which beat France at the Parc des Princes; he declared the side as he had married into an op-

(to which he contributed three tries) as one of the best he had ever played in. Posted to the Far East, he was

porting actors, including Daniel

Ceccaldi as a sissy Duc d'Anjou

captured by the Japanese in Java in 1942 and incarcerated in Singapore's notorious Changi prison. For a while he worked on the Burma railway, a hardship to which many prisoners of war succumbed. He owed his survival to his iron will but the expérience left a déep mark: years later he was reported to

As a broadcaster and sports writer Wooller was outspoken, occasionally to the point of giving offence. The mother of one Welsh rugby international sent him a pair of spectacles after he had criticised her son for being caught out of position. The corrective lenses were returned with the comment that,

defended as ruthlessly as he captained Glamorgan. He believed - on and off the field in order and discipline.

Tony Heath Wilfred Wooller, sportsman and commentator: born Rhos-on-Sea 20 November 1912: married 1948 Enid James (three sons, two daughters): died Cardiff 10 March 1997.

Jean-Dominique Bauby

A voice reaches us, crying out from the depths of a profound silence: "I am alive, I can think. and no one has the right to deny me these two realities . . .

The words were conveyed by a flicker of the left evelid and come from a truly extraordinary book, Le Scaphandre et le papillon ("The Deep-sea Diver and the Butterfly") by a former journalist, Jean-Dominique Bauby. He worked for journals like the Quotidien de Paris and Paris Match and for four years until December 1995 was the very successful chief editor of

Then the unthinkable happened. A cardiovascular accident paralysed him and sent him into a deep coma, from which he emerged 20 days later in the pointed to them on a screen:

Hôpital Maritime at Berck. on the north-east coast of France, his brain intact, but able only to blink his left eyelid. He was di-agnosed as suffering from the rare disease called "Locked-in Syndrome", unable to breathe.

swallow or eat without assistance. In this inert body, the brain was working furiously, with a mixture of rage, exasperation and wild humour, trying to make people understand what he was thinking. With the help of a specialised nurse, Claude Mendibil, despatched by the publisher Robert Laffont, he was able to write his book, using only his ability to blink at the most frequently used letters of the alphabet - E, S, A, R, I, N. T and so on, while Mendibil

one blink for "yes", two blinks for "no". He would spend most of the

night editing his thoughts and composing sentences, which he memorised so that when Mendibil arrived in the morning he could dictate the latest instalment to her in a succession of blinks. The man's courageous spirit and the passionate tracking of a good story were combined in this supreme journalistic effort to produce a book whose vivid title describes the immobile state of his body (the deep-sea diver in one of those heavy old-fashioned diving suits) and the state of his mind, fluttering like a rare butterfly from letter to letter, from word to word, page to page to the end of a book of just over 100 pages.

One would expect from this their capers have to be process a stiff factual report, but that is not the case. The book reads in flowing images that il-luminate his predicament and enlighten our own darkness in the face of this mystery. The style is clear and fresh, and not without elegance, imagination and shafts of humour. One of the beauties of the book is the portrait that emerges of the attentive speech therapist who does her best to teach him to relearn letters and syllables. There are bleak pictures of the wintry beach at Berck Plage, a melancholy symbol of his own sense of desertion. In his hypersensitive condition, each sound becomes unbearable. meaningless noise, and when his two sons come to visit him

endured with saintly patience. He is also in search of past time, of memory itself, of the books he has read, the poems he learnt by heart; even more sad, he thinks of all the books he wanted to read and hadn't done so. He has to listen to someone else reading them to him. He remembers a bet he lost at a racetrack, one of the many flashes of wry humour in his book. Above all, he remembers his life as a journalist, as an editor, with its agonies and disappointments, his sense of being exploited by the media, yet his desire, in his post as editor of Elle, to do something for the rights of women, to help them free themselves from various tyrannies.

March 1996 that the appli-cants Hassan Hussein Adan

and Lool Isaak Nooh, both of

whom had fled from ethnic con-

flict in Somalia, were not enti-

tled to refugee status. At the

same time the court dismissed

appeals against the tribunal's decisions on 22 January 1996

and 7 May 1996 that Boban

Lazarevic and Zoran Radivo-

jevic, both Serbian draft-

evaders who had fled from

former Yugoslavia to avoid the

fighting, and who were cur-

rently unable to return there,

were not refugees.
Nicholas Blake QC and Raza Husain

(Wilson & Co. Tottenham) for Adan and Nooh; lan Lewis (Sucoric & Har-

tigan, Acton) for Lazarevic and Radi-

vojevic; David Pannick QC and Mark

Shaw (Treasury Solicitor) for the

said the fundamental issue in

All this is admirably conveyed in a documentary about Bauby's last year made with scrupulous care and great sensitivity by Jean-Jacques Beineix, already programmed before his death to be shown on the weekly literary television programme Bouillon de Culture, directed by Bernard Pivot, Guests are journalist friends of Bauby, the film director himself, the doctor and his assistant Mendibil at Berck. Beineix' title is significant, and ironic: Assigné à residence ("House Arrest"). He says Bauby became a real actor, eager to make the film work perfectly.

Bauby's determination to overcome difficulties that would send most of us into irretrievable depths of despair are expeople suffering from Locked-pressed in the words: "I have in Syndrome." So he created



Bauby: one blink for 'yes' Photograph: André Rau / Elle

decided to carry on my fight against fatality by setting up the first association in the world for

ALIS (Association du Locked-In Syndrome) and became its first president, stating his objectives thus. "To collect all the present information about the syndrome, to allow sufferers to communicate better with one another, to create means of breaking the solitude and isolation, and to make them true citizens of the 21st century." Albecome sponsors.

The address of ALIS is: 38 boulevard Jean-Jaurès, 92100 Boulogue, France (telephone/ fax 00331 4604 3338).

James Kirkup

Jean-Dominique Bauby, journalist and writer: born Paris 1952; married (one son, one daughter):

BIRTHS

BENSON: On 25 February 1947, to Grace (nee O'Connor) and Mark, a daughter, Katharine Margaret, a sis-ter for Edward.

LINDSLEY: To Clare and Ian, on 10 March 1997, at Kingston Hospital, a girl. Poppy Maeve, a beautiful sister to Phoebe and Isabella.

WALLRANK: Debra (Freeman) and Benedict are delighted to announce the birth of their son. Augustine Newell, on 10 March 1997, a broth-

DEATHS

LAMBERTON: Dr. Hugh Murdoch Lamberton, peacefully at home on 10 March 1997, Mourned by Suc. Jon. March 1997. Mourned by Suc. Jon. Enuma and Poppy, other family and his many friends. "The cart is ratiled all to pieces, and the long journey is at an end." Thanksgiving funeral service at 2pm. Tuesday 18 March 1997, in Malvern College Chapel, all are welcome. Private cremation will follow. Please, no flowers. Donations if wished, payable to Action Aid—Burundi, co The Bursar, Malvern College, Malvern WR1.4 3DF.

NICHOLAS: Dorothy Clare. BA SRN. Peacefully, on 9 March, in bospital at Donoaster, aged 58 years. R.LP. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Services, telephone 01302 342801.

NIEMAN: Alfred, composer, pianist and inspiring teacher, on 7 March 1997, after a long illness. Much missed by his wife, children and grandchildren and also his many students. Instead of flowers, donations to Queen Many's Hoontal, which cared for him so women. Hospital, which cared for him so won-derfully, can be sent ero Leverton & Sons Lid, 212 Eversholt Street, Lon-

Births, Marriages & Deaths

don NW1 IBD (Cheques made onn NW1 IBD Teneques made payable to "Special Trustees Grant number 476"). The funeral will take place at 11am on Monday 17 March, at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11.

WRIGHT: Dr Ingle (Lawrence), on 8 March 1997, aged 73. Wife of Dr John Lawrence (deceased). Cremation at Manchester Crematorium, on Saturday 15 March at [1am.

MEMORIAL SERVICES ROBERTS: Sir Bryan, A thanksgiving service will take place at 11.30am on Friday 11 April in the Crept Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral.

of St Paul's Cathedral.

SIMPSON: Tests: A gathering in memory of Dr Esther Sumpon will be held at the Royal Society, is Carlton House Terrace. London SW1, on Monday 14 April 1997, at 5,30pm for form. If you would like to be present, please contact (before 1 April) the Secretary, the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning, 15 Rokeby House, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WCIN 5LX (0)71-916 2838).

IN MEMORIAM

BARR: Frederick, died on Thursday L2 March 1992, Much loved. For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2012.

Birthdays Sir Antony Acland, Provost of Eton.

Str Antony Actand, Provost of Eton-former diplomat, 67; Dr Gitwanni Agnelli, chairman, Fiat Sp.A., 76; Mr Edward Albee, playwright, 69; Mr Ronald Alley, artist and former Keeper of Modern Art, Tate Gallery, 71; Mrs Virginia Bottomley MP. Secretary of State for National Heritage, 49: Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue. Director of the Royal Collection, 66: Mr Peter Gwynn-Jones, Garter Prin-cipal King of Arms, 57: Mr Norman Hogg MP, 59: Mr Philip Jones, In-mer Principal, Trinity College of Music, London, 69: Mr David Mel-Music, London, 69; Mr David Mel-lor QC MP, 48; Miss Liza Minnelli, actress and singer, 51; Sir Tom Nor-manton, former MP, 80; Mr Patrick Procktor, painter, 61; Mr Rod Richards MP, 50; Mr Ralph Shapey, composer and conductor. 76; Lord Wallace of Saltaire, Reader in International Professor. International Relations, London School of Economics, 56: Mr David Wilmot, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police, 54: Miss Googie Withers, actress, \$0.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Edward, Turcocc the Duke of Edmburgh's Award, aftends a district at \$2 Immys (Palmer, Princes) Maggardt, Freedand, the Goode We confirm, cross-or explaint at Accomplying Prince for Courses Guiden Princess Alexanders are that a district for the Maccom of Social in the Polacie of I derived the Section of Reins, Versier, Clarifick! Princess a decidability and sent court demonstrate Cranfield. Beds o clarity in sent court demonstrate Cranfield. Changing of the Guard The Household Country Mounted Payme, of around the Queen's Her Guzzell, Harth Harthe Guzzell, Harth Fattallon the Royal Recognition of Males, mounts the Queen's Guzzell at Buckingham Palace, 11,3 turn hand promisely by the host of guzzell.

Refugee's fear of persecution need not be current State for the Home Department:

Court of Appeal (Lard Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Hutchison, Lord Justice Thorpe) 13 February 1997 To qualify as a refugee for the purposes of article 1A(2) of the

1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1961 Protocol, it was not necessary for the applicant to have a current well-founded fear of persecution if he were returned to his country of origin, so long as he had through such a fear of persecution initially fled his own country or remained abroad due to circumstances (such as a civil war) arising here during his absence and would currently be unable to avail himself of that country's protection if he were returned

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Thorpe dissenting on the above issue) allowed appeals against decisions of the Lord Justice Simon Brown Immigration Appeal Tribunal on 7 December 1995 and 22 these cases was whether, to be

LAW REPORT

12 March 1997

recognised as a refugee, it was Secretary's argument, that no always necessary for a person unable to return to his home country to show a current wellfounded fear of persecution or whether a historical fear might sometimes suffice.

Article 1A(2), which could be broken down into a series of clauses as follows, a refugee was someone who:

1(a) Owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for [a Convention reason, i.e. race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion], is outside the country of his nationality, and (b)(i) is unable to avail himself of the protection of that country, or (ii) owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who

2(a) not having a nationality and be-ing outside the country of his former habitual residence, (b)(i) is unable to return to it, or (ii) owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for [a Convention reason] is unwilling to return to it.

The strength of the Home

one was entitled to refugee status unless at the time his claim was determined he was in present fear of persecution were he to be returned home, lay in the use of the phrase "is outside" in clause 1(a); its weak-ness lay in the difficulty in finding convincing reasons why the definition also included

clause 1(b).

As a matter of language is seemed the phrase is outside", although couched in the present tense, could sensible construed to have any one of three meanings. It could mean, as Mr Pannick submitted, "is outside" owing to a well-founded fear of persecution still current at the time the applicant's claim was being determined; or it could mean has at some time, however long in the past, come to be outside on account of such fear and, for whatever

reason, has never thereafter

it could mean has come to be outside (or being outside, not to return) owing to past per-secution and still remained abroad on that account, in the sense that the causal link remained operative and had never been broken.

Though it might on occasion be difficult to decide whether the causal link under that third formulation remained intact. this was an area of decisionmaking where a broad-brush approach was generally required and on such an approach the problem was far from insoluble.

While anomalies might appear to arise on either view, Mr Blake's arguments were to be preferred. An asylum seeker unable to return to his country of origin might indeed be entitled to recognition as a refugee provided only that the fear or actuality of past persecution still played a causative part in his presence in the UK.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

المكذا من الأصل

Home Secretary.

The main parties need a deeper shade of green

the usual suspects are paraded – local and household decisions about consumption, with the bigger politics of motorists' love of their cars, the false sense of control and security imparted by a metal box 15mm thick, selfishness on wheels, the permanent British ability to be surprised by the inherently changeable weather patterns of these islands. It does not do to overelaborate the causes of such accidents. Stupidity and ghoulishness account for a lot. But traffic incidents do not occur out of the blue, Understanding road use takes us, almost immediately, into discussing road building, the car culture, how it has affected the physical lay-out of town and country and the availability of public transport. These are all "environmental" policies.

Turn the pages of this newspaper: we are a nation beset with environmental concerns. The dry winter will lead to water and vegetable supply problems in the summer, with effects for business and leisure as well as the comfort of domestic life. The safe disposal of diseased carcasses seems too difficult for government to manage. Air quality is dangerously poor in some cities. Everywhere we are embroiled in arguments which are directly environmental, and others (rail privatisation, engagements with the World Trade Organisation) which affect our use of resources and our physical environment. Even fiscal wheezes such as the imposition of VAT

scarcity and atmospheric degradation.

But if we have environmental scares and are sunk in environmental gloom, what we don't have much of is environmental politics. John Major and Tony Blair give ritualistic speeches, yes, but decisions by the wielders of power (or those who aspire to hold it) are not informed by any special or consistent environmental awareness.

In that, perhaps, they are not out of kilter with the public. Our worries about the planet, and these small green-andconcrete islands in particular, have not produced any sustained environmen-talist pressure. The roads and animal rights demonstrators are tiny guerrilla bands in an ocean of apathy. Some ministers (notably John Gummer) make high-toned speeches of global import about how people should change their ways. But so far as the focus groups and the swing voters of Middle England go, they show little inclination so to do. Whether they live in Worcester or Rasildon, people are - politically speaking - unconcerned with matters green.

The unveiling yesterday by the Green Party of its manifesto for the forthcoming election is unlikely to change that. They are a fringe diversion, a splin-tered electoral nothing. Compare Germany, where the Greens are a political presence, locally and nationally - there on fuel show the interconnectedness of is even talk of their being the pivot of a being lectured at by the self-declared



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

new ruling coalition. In Britain, after that blip in Green Party performance in the 1989 European Parliament elections, they virtually disappeared. Greens hold a handful of council seats and, though they are contesting four-score parliamentary seats, their percentages are likely to be risible.

The reasons are not hard to find. Fringe political groups are centrifugal; the Greens have more than their share of fanatics and messiahs. We find fundamentalism no more attractive in green than any other colour. Ordinary British people do not take kindly to

possessors of virtue. And yes, the Greens do suffer from the unfair British electoral system (though on present numbers they would not necessarily pass the likely threshhold tests of most schemes for proportional representation).

Of course, the Greens may yet claim the future. Who knows ... perhaps after a Blair government has been in office for a term and enacted measures for constitutional change, the political landscape will open wide and through the fissures will come new movements. Perhaps, as some argue, the green political movement is comparable with, say, the Independent Labour Party of the and often, lift our sights too. It is sad

1890s, a sect developing advanced thoughts in isolation from the parliamentary mainstream only to come into its own within a decade. Greens have no solid social base like the trade unions, but the green rallying cry might be taken up by some social formation yet to cohere - young people always respond enthusiastically to opinion poll questions on the environment, and might in their thirties come to vote that way.

Meanwhile, the organisational weak-

ness of the green tendency in Britain ought to be a source of regret. Singleissue parties tend to make bad governments but as candidates, ever threatening to succeed but never quite making it, they can be immensely valuable in keeping the mainstream parties thoughtful and honest. The task ahead is to fit environmental concern with other priorities: there is no point pretending people's wish for better incomes, more jobs and the enhanced economic growth on which they depend is somehow going to be dissipated in a green haze. So, for the time being, the best deliverers of environmental progress will be political par-ties with a broad social and policy base.

The question is how to prod and push them. The environmental utopianism personified by Swampy and his tun-nelling and tree-climbing pals only goes so far. What we need is old-fashioned political leadership by MPs who are able to lift their sights, and by speaking well

that the same environmental issues which cloud so many citizens' brows are barely discussed by their political leaders. It is a democratic failure. The job of Messrs Major, Blair, Ashdown and the rest is partly to challenge us, make us think harder, and ready us for the inconvenient, sometimes unpleasant, but essential changes to our lifestyles necessary for a better husbanding of our islands. And so across the globe. Only by billions of daily decisions to behave differently will the planet he saved.

Business finds its voice on Europe

A t last. British business is speaking Aup on European union, the single currency and the Government's broken-backed approach to Europe. For too long the views of trading companies have gone unheard - as if they did not have an interest in decisions about money and markets. The running has been made by questionably representative organisations such as the Institute of Directors. 'Anti-European sentiment" as Sir Colin Marshall covly puts it. has been allowed to flourish partly because his and his colleagues' voices have been hushed. The European debate is stilted and incomplete without the traders and deal makers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Chance to end the culture of cover-ups

Sir: The revelation (7 March) of the failure of the Ministry of Agriculture to publish a report compiled two years ago which told of abattoirs that contained carcasses soiled with excrement and urine represents another nail

in the Government's DIY coffin. Although this oversight is only the latest episode in the catalogue of cover-ups that has characterised the Tory administration in recent times, it is also demonstrative of a rottenness festering at the heart of government - a culture of depial. Witness Nicholas Soames's cornered-animal behaviour over ine use of organ

Gulf war. Although the economy is poised to deliver prosperity the culture of cover-up and denial, adopted to protect the Conservatives integrity, has in fact done the exact opposite. It has been seen for what it really is: an arrogant disrespect for democracy and the people of this country. This has had a profound effect on the electorate.

My only fear is that this culture may prove endemic to the British system of government and not one particular party. Labour, if they win, must prove otherwise, and this will be expedited by the implementation of a Freedom of Information Act.
PAUL CUMBERLAND Faculty of Social and Political Sciences University of Cambridge

Sir. The idea of a merger between Labour and the Liberal Democrais (Donald Macintyre, 7 March) may be driven by the Labour drive for omnipotence, but the reason it won't happen is precisely because of our very different animales to power, which Labour members find difficult to understand, almost touchingly so.

Uniquely, Liberals are motivated by a desire to disperse and control power. Conservatives have traditionally been happy for power to be concentrated according to wealth. The reason they lost their way is that Thatcherism concentrated power in the state. which disorientated them.

Socialists have always wanted power collectivised and centralised usually in the state. The abandonment of that analysis leaves Labour philosophically floundering too, but its legacy is the social authoritarianism of Straw and the corruption of the local one-

It is no accident that it is Liberal Democrats, not Conservatives, who are the main challengers to Labour rule in the rule-by-patronage fiefdoms such as Lambeth. Liverpool, Sheffield and Islington. We have a guiding motivation that Tories lack, which is a harred of the concentration of power that has lest poor people dependent on an inefficient and self-interested

totten potonity. When we take power in these deprived areas, our priority is to give back to people the power over their own lives which Labour has arrogated to itself. It is not tribalism that makes us oppose Labour, but a fundamental difference in our agenda. Councillor SARAH LUDFORD (Liberal Democrat, Islington)

Sir: James Scott, while deploring racism, is quite happy to indulge in stereotyping (letter, 8 March). Think," he writes, "of all those Labour voters in northern working



men's clubs guffawing along with Bernard Mannin For a start, Mr Scott, we don't

guffaw up here, we laugh. Secondly, any idea that working men's clubs are full of Labour voters is extremely simplistic. Would that it were true. Had it been, we wouldn't have had this motley crew of spivs and second hand-car salesmen running the country for the last 18 years. Working men and women have traditionally been their own worst enemies and have voted Conservative as regularly and as blindly as the best-educated Buckinghamshire dweller, voting with their pockets and purses for the party that they imagined would

fill them. Ah well I'm off to oil the whippets and put some more tripe in me flat 'at before going off to t' club to hear some darkie jokes. MIKE HARDING

The writer is a stand-up comedian

Kids to support? Apply to Cardinal

Sir. I am delighted to hear that the Archbishop of Glasgow, Cardinal Thomas Winning, has decided to give practical assistance to all those who decide against an abortion, if the reason for the original decision was based on financial considerations (report, 10 March).

May I suggest that this approach be extended to contraception, another aspect of family life which the Cardinal can be assumed to oppose, as he must naturally support the Pope's teaching.

Anyone who decides against the use of contraception, but cannot

support the children conceived thereafter, should apply to the Archbishop for practical support. I am sure that the financial means will be provided generously by those few Catholics who still agree with the papal teaching against artificial contraception. FRANK J PYCROFT

Secretary Catholics for a Changing Church

Jail us instead of Kurdish MP

Sir: We write to you on International Women's Day to drawyour urgent attention to the plight of the imprisoned Kurdish MP Leyla Zana.

It is now more than two years since the shameful sentences were passed against Leyla Zana and six other Kurdish MPs. Failing to secure a death sentence because of national and international protests, the state prosecutor was able to get the court to sentence Leyla to an incredible 15 years in prison.

Leyla Zana was convicted because of her singular devotion to the cause of freedom and peace for the Kurdish people. Despite the threat of torture and persecution, she courageously continued her struggie for a political solution of the Kurdish conflict as well as for recognition of the Kurdish identity and language and the liberation of Kurdish women.

She was the first Kurdish woman MP to be elected, in the city of

Diyarbakir, to serve in the Turkish parliament. But her tenure as an MP was cut short when she was arrested by police on 5 March 1994 after the Turkish MPs voted to lift her parliamentary immunity and

that of other Kurdish deputies. World-wide protests from women, including Danielle Mitterrand, as well as appeals, demonstrations and hunger strikes have so far failed to move the Turkish government to release her We demand that the Turkish

government immediately release

Leyla Zana and the other Kurdish MPs and restore their parliamentary immunity. In exchange for one day of provisional liberty for Leyla Zana we declare our readiness to spend the same day in jail in Turkey. PAULINE GREEN MEP (London North, Lab/Co-op) ANITA POLLACK MEP (London South West, Lab) CHRISTINE CRAWLEY MEP (Birmingham East, Lab) CAROLE TONGUE MEP (London East, Lab)

JENNY JONES Chair of Green Party UK VICTORIA BRITTAIN; LOUISE CHRISTIAN; FRANCES WEBBER; GARETH PEIRCE: SHERI LAIZER; CLARA CONNOLLY; ANN ROSSITER; FRAN HAZLETON; NICKI JAMESON; MIRANDA WATSON; LIB PECK; SUSAN PITT; NATALIA TARI; R TAMI; LESLEY KIPLING: NAZANEEN RASHEED: YVETTE MAHON: A JONES; Rabbi MARGARET JACOBI:

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk)

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

CHRISTINE HEVEY

Family tree of Prince William

Sir: Paul Vallely ("The cost of the royal snub to Carey", 10 March) may be right to describe Henry VIII as the founder of the church into which Prince William has been confirmed, but he is wrong to describe Henry as the Prince's

ncestor. Henry VIII was succeeded by three surviving children: Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I; but when Elizabeth died in 1603 the throne of England passed to the descendants of Henry's elder sister Margaret and her husband. James V of Scotland.

On the other hand, Prince William can claim as ancestors the (anti-) pope Felix V and such royal figures as St Margaret of Scotland, St Louis IX of France, and St Fernando III of Castile and Leon. And he can probably also claim descent from Genghis Khan - a fitting replacement for Henry VIII? ERIC THOMPSON London NW2

Charity cards

Sir: Contrary to the impression given by Jojó Moyes in her article Card retailers are charity Scrooges" (18 December), Roger la Borde (and lots of other small greetings card publishers) give a much higher proportion of their profits on Christmas card packs to charity than the much-vaunted 30 pence in the pound demanded by

Nigel Griffiths, the Labour

consumer affairs spokesman. Small publishers and retailers make far less profit on Christmas cards than multiple retailers, who can reduce costs by printing huge quantities and selling through their own outlets. Criticising small publishers and independent retailers for giving smaller proportions of the retail price to charity than large chains such as W H Smith is like criticising one person for giving you only half of their jam tart while praising another for giving you a slice of their cake.
TIM SOLNICK Roger la Borde London NW6

Smoking risks

Sir: Lynne Reid Banks is talking nonsense (letter, 8 March). Some smokers did feel that smoking was bad for them, but it is only recently that there has been proof of the devastating damage cigarettes cause. Why else has the number of doctors who smoked plummeted since the Sixties? HELEN MILLER Glasgow

Off your trolley

Sir: The photomontage of Westminster in your front-page story "Mr Brown and the strange case of those serial political assassinations" (11 March) juxtaposes the shadow Chancellor with an old-style London tram on route 16 to Croydon. Shurely shome mishtake? DAVID ORCHARD

Spoil us for pub choice

Sir: It is good to see Jonathan Glancey joining in the celebration of the careful and respectful conversion of the Commercial Rooms in Bristol to pub usage ("A renaissance down the boozer". 7

However, in taking Camra and English Heritage to task for being perhaps a bit out of touch and exhorting them to "cast their net a little wider when judging next year's pub design awards", he has not appreciated the way in which

the joint awards scheme operates. It may be that the country, led by London, is awash with good-quality refurbishment and new-build schemes, but the awards, which are annual, are only for refurbishment projects completed during the previous year. Of these, the judges were faced with the thinnest selection for many years.

EH and Camra invite anyone involved in, or aware of, good work in existing pubs, or the creation of new pubs. to submit entries for the various award categories. We would be happy to supply entry forms to any *Independent* readers who have pubs to nominate for next year's awards. We would love to be spoilt for choice. BOB HAWKINS English Heritage London W7X 1.4B

Sir: I do not see how you can "design" a pub ("A renaissance down the boozer". 7 March). Certainly, the "Phil" in Liverpool is a spectacular building, but that has nothing to do with its qualities as a pub. People make a pub what it is. Some of my favourite pubs have less than perfect beer, no food other than snacks, fake beams. television sets and bright lights, but they are wonderful pubs nevertheless, because of the people who use them.

Even "bores bulging from cheap suits" make a contribution, as the regulars realise with pleasure - or c*hadenfreude* – that an unsuspecting stranger has entered into what is destined to be a very one-sided conversation. St Helens, Merseyside

Drain plagiarist?

Sir: The points of correspondence between Graham Swift's Last Orders and William Faulkner's.4s / Lay Dying (*Booker man hits back at accusers", 10 March) prompted me to take a critical look at Mr Swift's Waterland, a novel set in the fenland area of East Anglia.

I am amazed to find that the structure, page numbers and title headings are in all respects similar to the annual report of the Little Ouse Internal Drainage Board for 1989, which was runner-up in the non-fiction section of the competition run by the Institute of Drainage for that year. GRAHAM HARRISON

My BT bonus

Sir. Let me comment on speculation in The Independent about my potential bonus for 1996/7 (report, 10 March). There is no chance of my being offered a sum approaching £500,000 as a

Just for the record, if I were. I would not accept it. IAIN VALLANCE Chairman, BT London ECI

Stanleyville, VS Naipauls' colonial town on the Congo, is set to be taken by Zaire's **Tiberators' 30** years after their first attempt, says **Richard Gott**

s Laurent Kabila's rebel forces march towards Kisangani, the thirdlargest town in Zaire, the world is beginning to wake up to the fact that one of the most important countries in Africa is about to change hands. For much of the past six months, while the Zaire rebellion has been maturing, attention has remained focused on one of the more insignificant countries - on the drama and tragedy associated with Rwanda. Now the future of Zaire itself is finally at the top of the agenda.

Readers wondering why the fall of Kisangani might be such a key development will understand better if reminded of its change of name. Just as Zaire used to be called the Congo (and is to be called that again when Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo wins the current war), so Kisangani was once called Stanleyville. The old name must stíll evoke a curious flood of memories in the West - of colonial adventurers, missionaries and mercenaries, and Cold War entanglements. It is a measure of how the world has changed over the past 30 years that the tuture of the Congo/Zaire should now be seen to be of such little moment.

In November 1964, only just elected as Britain's prime minister and without a foreign secretary in parliament. Harold Wilson authorised the use of the British military base on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic for a special mission. It was to serve as a launching-pad for a successful US-Belgian attempt to turn the tide of a civil war in the Congo in which the fate of the world



A bend in the river, a twist of history

seemed to hang in the balance. On 24 November, 600 Belgian paratroops, flown in from Ascension Island on transport planes supplied by the United States, captured Stanleyville airport, and linked up with mercenaries from South Africa and Rhodesia lighting for the overnment army of Moises Tshombe. Their official aim was to rescue European hostages held in the town.

Stanleyville, an attractive colonial riverine city, was established in the early 1880s by Henry Stanley, the American journalist (and later a British MP). It became the heartland of Congolese radicalism, home town of Patrice Lumumba, the leader of the Congo at the time of independence from Belgium in 1960. Lumumba, backed by the Russians, was murdered early in 1961, after the first trial of strength with Tshombe, backed by the West during which the United Nations looked impo-

Lumumba's name was to be opportunistically used by the Russians for their newlyestablished university for Third World students in Moscow. and in 1964 his statue stood in the centre of Stanleyville.

In August that year, as is happening today, the town was captured by rebels fighting in the Lumumbist cause. There they established for several months the headquarters of the "People's Republic of the Congo", led by Christophe Gbenye, a politician formerly in Lumumba's government. In the great Cold War battle for victory in recently decolonised

seemed to be forging ahead. The left-wing rebels had done well that year. Pierre Muleie, another old Lumumbist, had moved in from Congo-Brazzaville and seized much Gaston Soumaliot and Laurent Kabila - then a young Frencheducated politician from northern Katanga - had advanced from Burundi into the eastern Congo, west of Lake Tanganyika (just where Kabila has again been operating so suc-

cessfully). With the capture of

Stanleyville in August 1964,

much of the country was in

The United Nations, which had had troops in the Congo for four years and was suffering from Congo fatigue, had withdrawn them in June. The Chinese, still denied membership of the UN, had been taking an interest in supporting Mulelc. The Russians, still refusing to pay their share of the UN's Congo expedition, were backing Soumaliot and

Soon the diplomatic recognition extended to Gbenye's "People's Republic" by many radical African states was to set the scene for one of the typical confrontations "by proxy" of the Cold War. The Russians and the Chinese now openly supported Gbenye's rebel government, while the Americans and the West gave military aid

am glad to welcome back Dr Vernon Monicker, the

well-known expert on the

origin of surnames, who is

uestions on nomenclature.

recently saw the classic film

television, which as you will

going to answer all your

"The Lost Weekend" on

Billy Wilder about an

alcoholic writer and his

suffering, and it got me to thinking seriously about

All yours, Vern!

Africa, the Communists and succour to the government in the capital, Leopold-ville (now Kinshasa), of Tshombe (who had seized power in July) and his commander-in-chief, Colonel Joseph Mobutu.

For several months, as Tshombe's white mercenary army was assembled and trained and began to advance from the south towards Stanleyville, there was a pronaganda war. In Stanleyville itself, the rebels spread news of an American "atomic attack" on a town to the north, and held two days of mourning for the "victims". At the same time, Nicolas Olenga, the rebel military commander in Stanleyville, and his "Simba" troops, became globally famous for what were considered their "atrocities".

ecause the "white" West Was supporting Tshombe, Olenga's men began to. round up the Belgians and the North Americans in the local white community in the Stanleyville area. Mostly businessman and Protestant missionaries, they were, of course, regarded as untrustworthy. Some of the North Americans had been brought up on the stories of the famous massacre of Protestant missionaries in Ecuador in the Fifties, and had a highly developed sense of impending martyrdom. Many of them were rounded up by

the Simbas, detained, illtreated, and then held as hostages. (Alone among the old European population, the Greeks were left unmolested—

to feed the others in the gaol.) As Tshombe's mercenary army closed in on Stanleyville in November, the Americans feared that their host sionaries would be killed. They devised a rescue operation, to coincide with the artival of the mercenary army, that would send in Belgian snatch-squads to lift out the hostages.

It was the longest long-range parachute operation ever undertaken, and, as in other similar cases, it was only partially successful. The paratroopers landed, the airport was seized, and several missionaries and their families were rescued. But many were inevitably killed in the ensuing chaos. The death toll as the rebel city fell to the mercenaries was large: more than 200 Europeans and hundreds of

VS Naipaul, in his novel A Bend in the River, describes Stanleyville in the aftermath of the rebellion. "The place had had its troubles: the town at the bend in the river was more than half destroyed. What had been the European suburb near the rapids had been burnt down, and bush had grown over the ruins; it was hard to distinguish what had been gardens from what had been streets."

What's in a surname? Ask the doctor

Both losses led them to lose the allies. General Mobutu staged a comp against Tshombe at the end of 1965, and has remained

of the internal dissension

ore than three decades fater, the situation could hardly be more different. The distortions of the Cold War have fallen away. The "radical" African states have all disappeared, as has the Soviet Union itself; and the threat of Chinese intervention. Che Guevara and Tshombe are long dead. Only Castro and Mobium remain - and Laurent Kabila.

Although there is consider able disagreement between the United States and France about what should happen in what will undoubtedly soon again be called the Congo, the chief international players are now the governments of the

surrounding states.

Here Laurent Kabila has played his hand with consummate skill, and President Mobutu's position is correspondingly weak. Starting with the firm support of Yoweri Museveni in Uganda, Kabila has also had the backing of the Luanda government in Augola They have long opposed Pres ident Mobutu because of his ancient friendship with Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the Unita rebels. While Uganda helped to organise, train, and discipline Kabila's rebels into an effective force, the

Angolans have reportedly been flying in both men and weapons to Kabila's liberated zone on the Tanzanian border. One diplomatic report even inggests that a rebel Zairean force is already assembling in the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, poised to move on Kinshasa at any moment.

In all these developmen the old protagonists of the Cold War have been conspicuous by their absence. General Mobuta is convalescing in promised to back up their Southern France, but planning to that old generation of dic tators, east and west, who were kept in power by the immobilentered the lists. Just as the ity of that frozen era. He will soon go to join Ferdinand Marcos and Alfredo Stroessner in that part of Valhalla set aside for dictators distinguished by their longevity and finally dropped by their patrons. The Americans, for their part, take an intelligent interest in what is going on, but show no signs of propping up their old ally. No one, this time, has put Ascension Island on alert,

As the heirs to the legacy of Patrice Lumumba, Kabila's men now stand once again at the gates of the old, decrepit town of Stanleyville - where doubtless, as everywhere else, they will be greeted this time as liberators. Kabila could certainly run a decent post-Mobutu Congo, though no one thinks it would be particularly radical That era is over. Yet it will be a strange twist of history. - a Long March indeed - if Che Guevara's old companionin-arms finally gets to control the Congo - more than 30 years after his first attempt.

If you are planning a baby, start here



Worldwide studies show that even with a good diet, extra specific nutrients may be very important - during and even before pregnancy. **FOLIC ACID** is vital to the development of

your unborn baby. But it is not the only nutrient which is essential during pregnancy. Pregnacare contains the recommended level

acid, along with a careful balance of 15 other vitamins and minerals to safeguard your requirements

during pregnancy. Pregnacare replaces your usual multivitamin. It is recommended from several weeks before conception, right through to the end of breast feeding. So, if you're already pregnant, or could be soon, start with Pregnacare



before and during pregnancy

Available from Boots stores, Tesco, Superdrug, ct health food stores and Holland & Barrett. 54.95 per month's supply. For more information please contact VITABIOTICS Ltd.,



Pregnancy ___

h sattatu =0 Pagusas. Feb: 0891, 225, 128

I am not really qualified to talk about medical matters such as alcohol addiction. Although I call myself doctor, l am no more a real doctor than other people who call themselves doctor such as Mawhinney and

No. I wasn't going to talk about the alcoholism side of things. I was just mystified by the name of the lead actor, Ray Milland. Have you any idea where it comes from? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: I believe it is short for Ravmond.

I was thinking of the surname Milland. Would it he a corruption of the Italian place name Milan? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Unlikely, considering that the Italian place name is Milano and there is no "d" Yes. wise guy, but there is in German. The German word for Milan is "Mailand",

remember is the film made by which may have given the surname "Milland Dr Vernon Monicker writes Unlikely, Mr Show-off, Far more likely that Milland is a Dr Vernon Monicker writes: shortened form of "Mili hand. Don't forget that many surnames refer to the occupation of the ancestor. It is sometimes said that any football team or government cabinet will contain the names of at least two occupations in it.

Said by whom:

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: By me, actually. Go on then, give me the names of two occupations in the English football team! Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Alan Shearer. Go on! Dr Vernon Monicker writes:



Miles Kington

David Seaman. Oh. very clever. Any more? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Certainly, Des Walker, Matt Le Tissier...

They're not occupations!
Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Certainly they are. Walker was the name given to the man who trampled the cloth in cloth-making, and "tissier" is an old Jersey French dialect word for 'weaver". Extraordinary, really, that three people who have recently been in

the England football team should have names connected with the cloth Make it easier to change the

team strip!

The result of the Stanleyville

operation - a textbook exam-

ple of overt Western interven-

tion - was further to unite the

radical African states - notably

Algeria, Egypt, Guinea and

Ghana - in favour of the anti-

words with military assistar

forces.

as did the Russians and the

A surprising player then

Americans had provided

Cuban mercenaries (left over

from the Bay of Pigs in 1961)

to fly Tshombe's planes, so

Fidel Castro was now to send

his own Cubans to help the

Congolese rebels. In Decem-

ber 1964, Che Guevara went to

the United Nations in New

York to denounce the crime at

Stanleyville, perpetrated by

"Belgian paratroopers, trans-

ported by United states air-

craft, which took off from

British bases". A few months

later, in April 1965, he arrived

with a trained troop of black Cubans to join Kabila's motley

collection of Congo fighters.

But by that time. General

Mobutu's mercenary army had

already got the upper hand. The Congolese rebels failed

even to get near to Stanleyville,

let alone to recapture it. Within

a few months, Kabila's men

were defeated on many fronts:

They lost on the battlefield to.

the mercenaries, and they lost

the political struggle as a result

Tshombe

They

All right, what about government cabinets? Anyone with an occupational handle in the cabinet? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Clarke. Gummer. Major... Of course, it used to be more striking when both main party leaders had occupational names. Smith and Thatcher. But even

today there is another party

leader with an occupational

Dr Vernon Monicker writes:

Oh yeah? What kind of work does an ashdown do, then? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: I was thinking of a man called Goldsmith, actually. Who has recently been oined by a man called Gardiner. All names of

To change the subject a bit. I noticed that James Dellingpole in "The Speciator" recently said that as his name began with a

"De-", it was probably Norman in origin. Any truth Dr Vernon Monicker writes:

If there was a place in it might be true. Some old Norman names do begin with "De-", like Delaware, but I think you would be hard pushed to find Norman origins for Delfont, Denmark and Dexter.

Marmaduke Hussey has an old Norman name, by the way, which comes from the Norman place La Houssaye. And there is a place in Normandy called Venables, so I expect that Terry Venables's forebears came across with the Conqueror, probably on a free transfer. Is the name Norman St John Stevas a genuine Norman

name? Dr Veruön Monicker writes: The name is authentic enough, but I believe that the man himself is completely made up.

Dr Vernon Monicker will be back soon, so keep those queries rolling in

المكذا من الأصل

the commentators

The weightless economy is on track for victory

f you watched the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on the box last weekend and felt you would like a slice of the action, you may soon be able to have it. For the Formula One business may be floated on the stock market in May. But before you reach for your cheque books, ponder this number: £2.4bn. That is, apparently, what the business is worth. To put that in perspective, this is more than a successful high street than a successful

high-street retailer such as Next or Dixons, or six times as much as Body Shop. And for that money, what do you get? You don't buy the cars or the tracks. You certainly don't buy the drivers, and they don't come cheap. What you would be buying is the brand, which happens to be owned by a single individual, Bernie Ecclestone, who built it up and now wants to sell it to the public.

What makes this brand so. valuable is the global television rights. In TV terms, Formula One is an astonishingly successful phenomenon. Its 400 million viewers worldwide put it third only to the Olympics and the World Cup, which in any case only take place every four years. And a high proportion of those viewers are precisely those that TV companies find hardest to attract: young and middle-aged up-market men. As the TV industry moves into the digital age, with the prospect of a thousand or more channels, how on earth will the companies find things that have sufficient global clout to cut through the cacophony of the airwaves and attract the attention of the viewers? Answer. by buying rights

to things like Formula One. And all prospective investors would get would be rights: no factories, no shops, no physical stocks, no physical products, very few staff. It is the ultimate global weightless business.

ness, a business where the product can be reduced to string of digital computer signals, flashed round the world, and hundreds of millions of people will buy it. This is the future - in the sense that inter-

national trade will increasingly be in intangibles. Of course there has somewhere to be a physical entity. There have to be tracks, cars and drivers in the case of Formula One, just as there have to be TVs on which to watch the Grand Prix, or for that matter personal computers on which to use the software pumped out by Microsoft. But the real value - or at least much of it, for as this paper reported yesterday there is a row between Formula One and the racing car constructors over the way the spoils should be split - is intangible.

If you bridle at the idea that world trade will increasingly be weightless, consider this. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, recently pointed out that the weight of US weight of US output now is little higher than it was 100 years ago, but its value in real terms is 20 times higher. Or consider a Toyota car built



Hamish McRae

Formula One is for sale – not the cars or the tracks, but the brand. This is the most extreme example of value lying

just in an

idea

have moved from Japan to

has not been shipped across the oceans, the international trade

is in the design and marketing,

for those are the elements that

The idea that firms where the main value is in royalties or rights should be traded on the stock market is not at all new. Much of the value of pharmacentical companies lies in their patents, and once key patents expire the companies have to hope they have other winners in the pipeline. Much of the value of publishers is in their backlist rather than in new titles. But Formula One is perhaps the most extreme example of value lying just in an idea.

Expect in the future economic competition becoming more and more in the ability of countries to generate ideas like this. Manufacturing technology crosses national boundaries in a matter of weeks, for virtually all physical products can be taken to bits and "reverse engineered". You can gain an advantage for a while by having a brilliant product, but not for long. In any case, once the word gets round that you have a brilliant design team, expect that team to hive itself off. Why should the team work for mere salaries when it can become a business in its own right, sell to a whole string of different manufacturers, and maybe even float itself as a unit at some future date?

There is a practical moral here. It is that economic prosperity for advanced, developed nations will depend not so much on the ability to make things, but more on the ability to generate ideas that can then be sold to the world. It means that originality, flair, entrepreneurship, maybe even cussedness, will be increasingly prized.

You see, all advanced developed countries are becoming the same. We will all educate

are becoming the same. We will all educate people to high standards, we will all have access to the highest technology, we will all be able to raise money on the global capital markets on the same terms, and we will all have low inflation. Even our political ideas are becoming the same: compare Blair and Clinton, or world. So what differentiates us? The answer partly lies in our cultures, and in particular our ability to generate and exploit new ideas. Formula One is by no means a new idea, for people have been racing cars for more than a

century, but it has been brilliantly exploited. Indeed, coming up with ideas is only half the trick; the other half is to build businesses out of them. The key measure of the economic vitality of a nation will be the number of business start-ups. Some day we may even reach the stage where bright undergraduates achieve status not by getting a First, but by running a successful business in their spare time. Chances are that most of those businesses will weigh nothing; and just a tiny number will be worth a lot.

The teenies vote for snog 'n' run

مكذا من الأصل

he success of a well-

not a world-historical event?

pen? Where are the girl groups

the ground. Our battered copy

of 1963 And All That points to

a volcanic eruption of female

vocal talent at the start of the

Supremes, Martha and the

Vandellas and the rest of the

Then silence. Silence for

decade after decade: the Sev-

enties, the Eighties. Some-

where in the Eighties a band

called Bananarama sprang up,

had a string of hits, got bad-

mouthed and scorned and

ridiculed, begat Shakespear's

Sister. And that, until the

dawning of the age of Ziga-zig-

tory likes to play. The Sixties

comes along, sexual equality gets on to the political agenda,

women begin making incur-

sions into industry and parlia-

ment and journalism and the

law; God the Father becomes

"Creator God". Then just to

prove that things aren't quite that simple, rock'n'roll, quint-essential youth art form of the

age, turns out to be the most

male-dominated, male chau-

vinistic phenomenon since the

occasionally appear, they are all

they have the life expectancy of

Toys, anyone? Well I do, but only for one song, "Symphony of Love" (the time was nicked from

Bach). The Shirelles sang "Will You Love Me Tomorrow", which

had the rare distinction of also

being written by a woman

(Carole King). It's a great song.

But to place any of these groups

in the same company as the Beatles, the Stones or the Smiths

Charlotte Greig begs to dif-fer. In her book about female

groups (called Will You Still

Love Me Tomorrow? and pub-

would be absurd.

too obviously manufactured, and

When female pop groups do

Mongol hordes.

It's one of the little jokes his-

ah, was about that.

Motown stable.

year, for that matter?

by Peter Popham



Taking the Spice Girls seriously is like asking how the Power Rangers will vote

groups making good music -Patty LaBelle and the Bluebelles is one name that springs to her mind - but the pop music press snobbishly ignored them, partly because many of the groups were black, partly because the press was infatuated with Genesis, Queen, and

The Eighties were even worse. "When I was writing the book in the Eighties, Bananarama was the only girl group around," she says now, "and everyone was really foul about . rock still drool over. In Britain

all things Progressive.

Of course, once you start scratching around it soon becomes clear that girl groups have been around for as long as rock'n'roll has existed, but they have never done well enough to make it really big.

Historians point to the Californian group The Runaways, a glamrock fantasy band of the Seventies, or Girlschool, a beavy metal outfit of the same decade, who had a hit with Motorhead, "Please Don't Touch", which archaeologists of

lished by Virago) she asserts them, calling them bimbos and there were female punk groups Slits, "real Notting Hill" as one fan remembers fondly: the

frontwoman was a German

Rastafarian called Ari Upp.

daughter of a count. Yet the

footnotes of musical history is

where, rightly or wrongly, these acts have ended up. Then came Madonna, and after her success, and particularly after the way she spun it

and four-hit wonders alike creep about in her shadow.

Charlotte Greig again:

"Madonna was doing something a bit new, bringing a lot of hip-hop. Latino and gay discomusic into the mainstream."

She also popularised what one commentator styles the "roaring girl" feminism that is such a striking feature not only of the striking feature not only of the Spice Girls but also of their rivals, such as Eternal, Shampoo. En Vogue, and the new sensation from Sunderland, Kenickie. She paved the way for the "snog'n'run" culture which the Spice Girls champion, the "strange mixture", according to another observer, "of sensitivity with in-your-face assertiveness; the subliminal message of romance - you get your boy by not giving a stuff about boys. The pose is vo-yo knickers, but the reality is they're quite straight." Evidence: both Mad-onna and Geri Halliwell, the so-

disc jockeys). The general shape of the argument is becoming clear. Girlic pop (we're allowed to use such terms again, it seems) eked out a miserable half-life in the lee of the male variety for 40-odd years, but now at last has discovered the heady mix of assertion, frivolity and fun which can set it free. This is why we are right to eschew the sort of snobby attitudes brought to bear on Bananarama and the like, and instead to submit the Spices latest single to exegetical analysis quite as stringent as

that applied to last week's

called "Sexy Spice", lost their

virginity at the incredibly

advanced age of 18 (and both to

Premier League matches. There is another possible view, however. The Spice Girls' success, according to these heretics, is down to the fact that (thanks to the telly) they have tens of thousands of fans as young as four or five, for whom they are fully articulated Barbie dolls, and who badger their parents into buying the CDs. For slightly older fans, up to. puberty, their dumpy looks and ingly reminiscent of what they see in the mirror. The groups vast success, they say, is above all a reflection of how the pop music market has fragmented into dozens of niches, amongwhich the teeny weeny boppers

may be as big as any.

Taking the Spice Girls seriously, in other words, is tantamount to enquiring how out and transformed her appeal the Power Rangers are plan-year after year, things for girls uning to vote. It is a category in pop were never going to be error. Perhaps the old the same again. She bestrides contempt for bubble-gum the age, and one-hit wonders music is ripe for a revival.

Blair needs to be more than tough

Leading a Labour cabinet will need Thatcher's steel and Major's cunning, argues Andrew Marr

Thatcherite. When he spoke earlier this week about how he would run gov-ernment "from the centre" and promised "uncompromising ... un-alterable" New Labour policies, he was echoing her. The tone, if not the policies themselves, thrills the blood of all those visceral leader-followers who felt themselves politically disenother end of the spectrum, the Labour will be unable to push through the left snarls privately about Blair's reforms he has promised. Those of us

What's the truth? First, let us dispose of the idea that Blair's promise to lead from the front is a pose, or secondary to his agenda - some kind of political fashion accessory.

He means it. Gorbachev was said to

have "a nice smile but iron teeth". Having heard Blair privately on the brief, bleak future that is waiting for Labour rebels or disloyal leakers, and having talked to shocked trade unionists who tried to arm-twist him and came away nursing disjointed elbows, I think Blair's famous rictus is similar in substance. Would one of nature's Fotherington-Thomases have dispatched Gordon Brown quite so swiftly in the leadership race following John Smith's death?

Toughness and leader-cult politics are central to New Labour. Just as Thatcher created a new electoral base by bringing over from Labour a swathe of blue-collar workers and the lower middle classes, bolting them on to the traditional Tory constituency, so Blair is trying to refashion Labour's base, by

swinging the middle classes behind him. Having fought a desperately unsuccessful by election during the noontide of triumphal, Falklands-era Thatch-erism, Blair knows very well that these potential New Labour voters are patriotic, hard-boiled, materialistic and, above all, prone to admire strong lead-

he says he's tough. His personal al attitude is consciously that there is spoke earlier (him) and the weak (John Major). It may not be a pretty sight. But it is a carefully considered one.

Where, though, will it lead him if he wins? The first point is an obvious one, which is that Blair will be unable to achieve anything much if he is not a strong and sometimes ruthless parlia-mentary leader. Without tight control franchised by the Major years. At the of a notoriously fissiparous party, he who want decentralisation of power and political pluralism from him have to accept the paradox that to deliver, he must first control the centre.

The other point is a more personal one, but no less important. It concerns the complex relations between Blair, Gordon Brown, and the other heavy weights, particularly Robin Cook and John Prescott. The unchallenged facts are these: Prescott has no leadership ambitions for himself. If he breaks with Blair, or storms out of a Labour government, it will be bad management by the Labour leader, and nothing more. Meanwhile Brown and Cook, both ambitious, are united by

mutual and cordial dislike. If Labour wins, how much does this matter? Let us start with another simple truth rammed home by the Thatcher era: a government depends heavily on the relationship between

the Prime Minister and Chancellor. Blair's relationship with Brown is complex the shadow Chancellor was his intellectual mentor, his morethan-equal, for years. They speak almost every day in private. And, per-haps, Blair uses Brown as a lightningconductor for bostility to his own views. Certainly, it is easier to attack Brown than the leader himself.

MPs and shadow ministers who are hostile to Brown retors that Blair has found his own centre and no longer



Hard men: yesterday's independent photomontage of Gordon Brown's mob

depends so much on anyone; they imply that his old friend, who remains one of New Labour's key intellectuals and who has grown steadily in influence, can be difficult for Blair, a little younger and a little less experienced in the Labour movement, to handle.

Well, we are in murky waters here, which will not be finally probed until the historians arrive. (And what fun they will have.) But one thing is clear. It is that the prospects of a New Labour government hanging together would be immeasurably strengthened by a quiet dinner between Brown and Cook, at which they buried their hatchets in the floor. Conversely, the ultimate Blairite nightmare would be a battle royal between the two of them, with Brown representing hardline New Labour and Cook leading the more radical wing of the party. At this point, the lessons of the

Thatcher-Major years become partic-

ularly interesting. The Labour Party is not excited about Westminster sovereignty in the way that the Tories are, but any such struggle would inevitably swirl around the same European/economic policy area that so plagues the Conservatives. If Blair arrives at Number 10 in May, then one of his longterm tactical objectives must be to

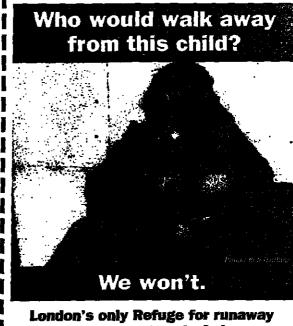
ensure that this never happens. It seems as if the lesson from the Major government is straightforward and has clearly been understood by Blair: trying to balance one faction against another, or playing off one assertive minister against another, is a mug's game and will merely convey the impression of weakness and drift. I suspect that much of Blair's "I'll lead from the centre" speech this week was directly intended to answer the Major

The Thatcher lesson seems equally clear. She slowly but steadily stripped her Cabinet of unbelievers and survived potential rifts over Europe for many years before being finally brought down by a general cabinet revolt. There was no one, not even Nigel Lawson, whom she did not personally dominate. Her relationship with "her" electorate was direct, and for many people almost bypassed the Tory party. Ergo, Blair must create for himself a Cabinet in his own image to match the new Blairite electorate.

But both of these obvious lessons contain serious flaws. What brought Thatcher down was the same thing that had sustained her for so long - her dependence on a court cut off from the daily doings of the party at Westminster, and infected by hubris. From there came the poisonous briefings against cabinet ministers. In the end, the Cabinet reminded her that they mattered.

in the most brutal possible way. Meanwhile, the underrated John Major has a lesson to teach Labour too. He has, after all, been a remarkable survivor. And why? Partly because he eleverly and thoughtfully drew on side his most dangerous Tory rivals, Michael Heseltine above all. He expended time, charm and ingenuity to keeping the vital ministers with him, even when he was privately irritated with them. It worked, given the huge ideological strains pulling at his party, remarkably well.

So the simple opposition between a "successful, strong leader", (Thatcher) and a "weak, failed leader" (Major) may be good populist propa-ganda for Blair; but it would be dangerous for him entirely to believe it himself. He is right to insist on strong leadership and a personal direction. A political reformist with Thatcher's energy and sense of direction would be a great thing for this country. But he needs to be a constant charmer too; in a parliamentary system, leaders who get too far ahead of their colleagues and parties meet swift and sticky ends.



children under threat of closure

Our Refuge is the only safe house for runaways who arrive in London from all over the country, it is one of just four in the UK. Recent funding cuts put the Refuge under threat of closure. Last year, the Beluge sheltered 211 children on the run from abuse, violence and neglect.

The youngest so far has been just 9 years old. These children are the most vulnerable in society - children without families, children in crisis, children in despair. For their sake, we are determined to keep our flefuge open. We will not walk away.

£25 will help safeguard one child So, please, if you care about these children as much as we do call 0800 252320 or cut the coupon.

WE URGENTLY	NEED VAND	HELD . NEAD	I INE 1 ADI	PII 199
HE ONOGHIE	HELD FOOR	IILL VERE		111 200

1	WE UNGENIER NEED YOUR HELP - DEADLINE: I APRIL IS
	I will give 2(cheque to Centropoint) to help runaway childre if you can make a gift of £250, this can be increased to £329 by the Government's Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost to you.
	E hi an ar

Return the Contropolat Bundways, FREEPIST TO (WC1746), Bendas House. 2 Smallow Place, London W1E 701. Centrepoint The Centrepout things is run in emptetion with the NePCC

business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

SFA rejects former Barings chief's claims by imposing three-year City ban with £10,000 costs penalty

Hopkins: Was he a whistle-blower or just negligent?

lan Hopkins, the "whistleblower" who says he alerted Barings to the huge losses being run up in Singapore by the bank's rogue trader Nick Leeson, was vesterday banned from the City for three years and ordered to pay £10.000 costs after the Securities and Futures Authority rejected his version of events.

Announcing the results of disciplinary proceedings against Mr Hopkins, former head of group treasury and risk at Barings investment Bank, the SFA dismissed claims that his warnings were ignored by more senior Barings executives.

Nick Durlacher, the SFA chairman, said: "The facts do not support this suggestion. An impartial tribunal has scrupulously considered all the available evidence and judged that Mr Hopkins did not 'blow the whistle' with any clarity, force or urgency. On the contrary, the tribunal found that his actions fell far short of the standards expected of a prudent man in such

a senior position." Last night Mr Hopkins, who refused to appear before the tribunal but waged a highly publie campaign to clear his name, rejected the SFA's findings but said he would not contest them.

gratuitously vindictive terms" in act with "due skill care and diliwhich they had been expressed and reneated his claim that he had been victimised for refusing to plead guilty to lesser charges and thus escape with only a reprimand, as some other Barings executives have.

Mr Hopkins said that during a telephone conversation with Mr Durlacher in January last year he was led to believe that the SFA would accept such a deal, allowing him to remain a "fit and proper person" and thus be eligible for readmission to the SFA's list of directors. But he was not prepared to agree to something that was untrue "however seductive the proposition".

Mr Hopkins went on: "I am surprised that the SFA has been able to achieve so much certainty in its view of what did and did not happen, and about who said what to whom, in the face of so much documented and circumstantial evidence to the contrary."

Mr Hopkins maintained that had his warnings and recom-mendations been acted upon. then Leeson's fraud would have been uncovered three months before his illegal dealings in the Tokyo futures market brought the bank crashing down with losses of £800m in February 1995. However, the tribunal ruled gence" in his job of managing the day-to-day working capital and credit needs of Leeson as his losses mounted and had therefore ceased to be fit and proper to be registered as a director. Mr Hopkins declined to ap-

pear at the three-day hearing in January, saying he could not afford the very substantial costs of attending. Had he contested the charges, he would have had to bear all the costs of the tri-bunal, including those of the SFA which retained a leading QC to plead its case.

However, Mr Hopkins did lodge a large amount of written evidence with the tribunal, including his testimony to the Commons Treasury Committee investigation into the affair, letters from former colleagues and six separate memoranda to his bosses sent between November 1994 and January 1995.

In one of them he said, with reference to Barings (Futures) Singapore Limited, that "our systems and control culture are distinctly flaky". In another, dated 7 November 1994, he proposed the appointment of an Asian regional treasurer to Barings Investment Bank but this as blocked on cost grounds He also quoted from the re-



Disciplined: Ian Hopkins, whose version was rejected by the SFA

port of the inspectors appointed by Singapore's Finance Minister, who concluded: "In our view the collapse might have been averted if Mr Hopkins' concerns had been taken seriously, and acted upon promptly and effectively."

However, the tribunal concluded that none of Mr Hopkins' memoranda or submissions constituted an adequate defence. Mr Hopkins knew that funds being advanced to Leeson from London to cover his increasing financial exposure on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange remained unreconciled. These funds, known as the top-

the time Barings collapsed. But, said the tribunal, he failed to control or reconcile these top-ups and failed to advise the bank's asset and liability committee, its management committee and its chief execu-

up, stood at £100m in September.

1994 and had risen to £306m by

tive, Peter Norris, of the lack of reconciliation or take steps to

stem the mounting exposure. He also failed to alert superiors to the fact that Leeson was both in charge of trading in Sin-gapore and the back office function of reconciling each day's trading, even though an internal audit report had mistakenly stated that customer statement reconciliations took place in London.

Funding crisis threatens Taskforce 2000

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Taskforce 2000, the group set up

by the Government to raise swareness about the looming computer millennium problem. is facing an imminent funding crisis which could force the organisation to close later this year, despite commitment by ninisters to publicise the issue.

Funding for the taskforce, set up last year with a £170,000 grant from the Department of Trade and Industry, runs out at the end of this month. No budget has been allocated for the next financial year. If the Government fails to provide more money, the taskforce would be left with less than £100,000

from other commercial donors. Margaret Joachim, a computer consultant and one of three senior staff on full-time secondment to the taskforce. warned that the organisation's work had not been completed. She said: "We have undoubtedly raised awareness, but that is only the first stage of informing large and small businesses about the problem. This is a real difficulty for whichever party wins the election. We have a bit of money left over for the next financial year but it won't last

The millennium problem has arisen because most computer systems in the world can only recognise the last two digits of a year and will not be able to cope with the date change in the year 2000. Programmes used by retailers are already rejecting date-coded products and credit

cards with expiry dates beyond 2000, assuming they are almost 100 years old.

Solving the problem is fore-cast to cost industry billions of pounds, while the DTI recently estimated the Government alone would need to spend £1bn to sort out its computer actworks. Computer experts fear systems could shut themselves down after the date

change, causing chace."

A DTI spokeswoman confirmed that no new cash had so far been allocated to the body. "We're committed to the objectives and are ready to listen to any case they want to put to us about their future pla

The latest threat to Taskforce 2000 is an embarrassment to Ian Taylor, minister for Science and Technology, who set up the organisation and who has turned the issue into a personal crusade. Mr Taylor's obsession with the issue has already raised the eyebrows of other ministers.

Apart from its three seconded senior staff, two of whom are paid for by their existing em-ployers, the taskforce has the free loan of a City of London office and two secretaries. Most of the cash has been spent on publicity material and work carried out by a public relations

So far the organisation has revealed a worrying lack of in-terest in the issue from large companies. A recent letter to privatised utilities asking what precautions they were taking to protect their computer databases received replies from just

Orange claims first place in mobile race

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Orange, the digital mobile phone network, yesterday claimed undisputed market leadership over its three rivals in the race to sign up customers, and predicted a substantial increase in revenue from subscribers.

Announcing results for last year. Orange said its customer base was growing at a rate of more than 30,000 net new subscribers a month this year, easily beating Vodafone. Cellnet and One-2-One.

Hans Snook, group managing director, said Orange had more than 850,000 customers at the end of February, following a 107 per cent increase to 785,000 last

year. He said: "We're attracting more of the better quality subscribers than any of our competitors. All the information we have from statisticians and dealers and distributors says that we are undoubtedly the fastest-

growing network this year."
The news boosted Orange's share price, which slumped last year after lears of a price war with its rivals. The shares closed 5p higher at 219p.

The group's revenue per subscriber, one of the most close-ly watched statistics in the industry, remained stable at £442 a year on average, compared with £444 at the end of 1995. Its share of the mobile market increased from 7 per cent to 11.5 per cent, and it took 28.5 per cent of new customers

Graham Howe, finance director, forecast that Orange would break even, excluding interest charges and depreciation, hy the middle of this year. He said

4444.30 ___ +6.90

4729 40 + 0.20

+2.81 -10.39

18267.72 +153.83 +0.8

13252.20 -16.56 -0.1

fudices

FTSE 100

Hong Kang

FTSE SmallCap __ 2370.86

FTSE All-Share 2163.94 New York 7069.00

the company was still on course to make a profit in 1998-99.

Another boost is expected from the hike in the wholesale charge Orange makes for incoming calls from BT's fixed phone network, which went up last month from 6p a minute to around 14p. Based on existing usage patterns, the increase would raise average revenues per subscriber from £58 to £135. increasing the overall annual spend to £520. Mr Howe explained: "You will probably find the real increase is a bit lower because people will make fewer incoming calls, but there will still be a rise in revenues from an already strong base."

Mr Howe claimed Orange's low chum levels, which measure how quickly customers switch to rival operators, meant its customer base was more valuable. Churn rose only slightly last year to 18.6 per cent from 18.1 per cent in 1995, though the figure is still the lowest in the industry.

Orange's turnover last year ing up the network.

The move comes as all the mobile networks are expanding opportunities for so-called "global roaming", where customers can use their phones on different networks around the word. The Dancall phone will work on two different wave bands used by mobile networks in the UK and

Day's change (\$\text{Stange}(%) 1996/97 High 1996/97 Low Yield(%)

2194.30

2163.94

4444 30 3632.30 4729 40 4015.30

7079.39 5032.94 1.93

22666.80 17303 65 0.901

13868.24 10204.87 3.20t

3460 64 2253.36 1.44†

Source: FT Information

3.62 3.33

1816 60 3 56 1954 06 2.88

STOCK MARKETS



Steve Morgan: 'No tax gain to be made by selling now'

Patrick Tooher

Steve Morgan, one of Britain's richest individuals, is set to raise almost £100m through the sale of a 25 per cent stake founded in 1974 with a £5,000 loan from his father.

Mr Morgan said the main purpose of the sale was for family investment reasons. He denied it was linked to his move last year to Jersey for personal tax reasons even though he will avoid a capital gains bill of up to £40m on the deal because of the Channel Island's generous tax regime.

There is no tax gain to be made by selling now," he in-

on greatly in the last 12 months and I feel it is not really appropriate for one shareholder to own more than 50 per cent of a public company

stake in Redrow, held via his Bridgemere Holdings company, cut from just under 60 per cent to about 35 per cent. Some 54 million shares will be placed by stockbrokers BZW and Cazenove with institutional investors. Shares in Redrow fell 5.5p to

169.5p on the news, valuing Mr Morgan's total investment at £220m.

Mr Morgan, who floated Clwyd-based Redrow on the stockmarket in 1994, stressed

·his move to Jersey reduced his commitment to Redrow, of which he remains chairman.

Morgan lands £100m from Redrow sale

"I wanted to sell more at the time of the float in May 1994, building industry then did not really allow it." he added. Day-to-day running

Redrow is in the hands of Paul Pedley, managing director who is also selling a small parcel of 475,000 shares, worth £805,000 at last night's close News of Mr Morgan's share

sale came as Redrow released interim figures for the six months to December showing a 36 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £16,4m on sales 29 per cent

sisted. The business has come that neither the share sale nor ahead at £123m. Earnings per share rose from 3.9p to 5.2p while the interim dividend was raised from 1.1 to 1.2p. Housing completions totalled 1,317 units in the half, up from 1,082, ing more than 5 per cent to £93,200, mainly reflecting an in-

crease in the average size of house sold. Mr Morgan noted that although house price inflation had been strongest in the south-east, a ripple effect was now being seen across the country. "As a result there is every reason to

> believe that the current market is sustainable," he said. Mr Morgan is credited as one

of the few housebuilders who

called the top of the market in 1988 and 1989, selling the company's entire landbank before the recession and the housing crash hit the whole sector in the

into the market with the purchase of Costain Homes for £70m, which expanded Redrow from its base in the north-west of England into the south east.

Mr Morgan denied his wellpublicised move to Jersey. where he reportedly paid £6.5m to buy the Trinity Manor estate, was linked to fears that an incoming Labour government would increase the top rate of income tax. "I'm not a political

Fund manager vulnerable after stake sale

Clifford German

Edinburgh Fund Managers was yesterday left exposed as a

rose by 171 per cent to £619m. including the impact of acquisitions. Losses before tax jumped from £141m to £229m, reflecting a surge in staff numbers and an extra £220m invested in build-

Separately, Cancall, the Danish mobile phone maker owned by Alan Sugar's Amstrad group. launched what it claimed was the world's first handset which could

work on both sides of the Atlantic.

potential bid target for European and US banks after the British Coal pension schemes disposed of its 32.5 per cent shareholding in the fund management group.

The placing forms part of a complex and inter-locking deal by the pension schemes that will reduce EFM's funds under management by 11 per cent, or pension schemes bought the

£900m. However, EFM, alert to the weakening of its position, said it still had control over £6.7bn of funds and added that

it would take less than two years to recoup the lost business. In a series of deals, the pension schemes are liquidating their 85 per cent stake in the British Investment Trust (BIT). which itself is being wound up. This will release the minority shareholders who have been locked into the trust since the

majority stake nearly 20 years BIT's £60m stake in EFM,

worth around £185m, is being placed in the market through James Capel and Pannure Gordon. BIT shares rose 25p to 264p on the news.

The pension schemes and BIT are also placing their stakes worth £90m in six EFM investment trusts, which will in effect sever all links with EFM.

EFM will continue to manage a £383m Smaller Companies

portfolio for the British Coal pension schemes and the rollover unit trust for minority holders in BIT And EFM expects to acquire an extra £500m worth of funds this year alone.

Meanwhile, EFM released its results for 1996 showing that while fee income rose by 60 per cent and operating profit by 65 per cent last year, pre-tax profit fell by 2 per cent after shouldering the exceptional costs of the merger with Dunedin Fund

Managers.

Porterbrook report delayed beyond election

Michael Harrison

Brit Borneo Pets 1425

The report by Sir John Bourn. head of the National Audit Office, into the Government's controversial sale of the three train leasing companies, is not now expected to be published before the election.

The results of his investigation into the three businesses, two of which were subsequently sold on by their managements at a vast

7_ **5**,5_.

profit, would almost certainly have made for uncomfortable reading had they been made public before polling day.

In the case of one of the com-

panies. Porterbrook, the management and City financial institutions made a £400m profit on the resale of the business to Stagecoach. Another of the leasing companies, Eversholt. was sold on to a subsidiary of the banking group HSBC last month, netting a £316m profit to Parliament, had not been for its managers and venture capital backers.

Sandy Andersen, the managing director of Porterbrook. made an estimated £46m out of the Stagecoach takeover while his opposite number at Eversholt, Andrew Jukes, is estimated to have made almost £16m.

Whitehall sources said that the NAO, which is an entirely independent body reporting direct

under any political pressure to delay publication. Sources said that Sir John's report was "some weeks" away from completion. Once an election is called he is not able to publish any reports. Since this could happen in the next formight, even though the country may not go to the polls until 1 May, it effectively rules

out publication while the present Government is still in office.

154.4 - 146.0 13 Mar

109.7+2.5pc 107.0 25 Apr

INTEREST RATES CURRENCIES l Houth | Hedien Soul (%) 6.66 5.94 6.00 (Landon) 1.6052 +0 33c 1.5242 £ (London) 0.6230 -0.13 0.6561 N York0# 1.6030 -0.05c 1.5251 £ (N York) ± 0.6238 +0.07 0.6557 DM (London) 2.7377 +0.94pt 2.2592 * (London) 195.602 + V0.689 160.562 0.41 0.47 DM (London) 1.7055 +0.23m 1.4923 ¥ (London) 121.855 + Y0.175 105.345 97.6 +0.3 83.6 \$ tadex 104.0 unich 95.7 Mary august Falls Testering Day's chy Test Ago Price (s) Clarge (s) % Clarge beden Latent Yr Ager Ment Figs

435 135 23.7

Football clubs aim to relegate owners' rules

Patrick Tooher

Football clubs outside the elite Premier League are mounting a campaigu to relax archaic ownership rules they say favour the bigger teams. If successful, the move will

make it easier for institutional

investors to take greater ad-

vantage of the recent crop of football flotations by spreading their risk and taking sizeable stakes in more than one club. At the moment Football eague rules bar an investor who owns more than 1 per cent of a club outside the Premiership from holding more than 1 per cent of another team. A less restrictive 10 per cent rule operates for Premier League clubs

but both are under review. The campaign to change the Football League's rules is being spearheaded by Sheffield United of the Nationwide First Division, which became a quoted company in January via a reverse takeover of the Conrad leisure group.

"You can own 5 per cent of ICI and Courtaulds but not 5 per cent of Sheffield United and Manchester United. That's a nonsense," said Charles Green, the club's chief executive. Three directors of Manches

ter United, including Sir Bobby Chariton, still own shares in Sheffield United as a legacy of the Conrad deal, though none breaches the I per cent rule. Following the reverse takeover Mike Edelson, a Manchester United director who ran Conrad, resigned as a director of Sheffield United to avoid a conflict of interest.

Mr Green claimed the Footbali League's ownership rules

were based on the "Dickensian theory" that the outcome of a match could be influenced if an

individual owned more than 1

per cent of more than one club.

There is an acceptance that rules draw up 150 years ago are not relevant now," he added. His comments were backed by Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander Investment Funds, which invests in football clubs. "With the likes of Birmingham City and Charlton Athletic coming to the market it means they cannot be supported if an investor has a stake in a Premier League club. The rule continues to assist the Premier League clubs and widens the gulf that already exists between them

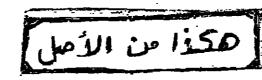
and the rest of football." Sheffield United is pressing for the ownership rules to be changed at the League's annu-

al meeting in July.

The Premier League is in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry about agreeing a higher ownership limit before its annual meeting in June. Mike Lee, a spokesman, said

the review was aimed at preserving the integrity of the game and governing the changing pattern of investment. Comment, page 19 The future's right here





Off Brent S 19.01 -0.58 18.40 RP1

351.15 +1.2 396.20

Cris



Just imagine the outcry if Mercury Asset Management

was_banned'from owning more than 1 per cent of Granada because it had more than 1 per cent of Carlton'

Big money will triumph in this football tussle

cient Football League rules bar an investor who owns more than 1 per cent of a club from rules are a little lighter for Premier League clubs, but not much. Here the threshold is 10 per cent for owning more than 10 per cent of a rival. The point of these rules, 10 use the pompous sounding language of the League, is to maintain the integrity of the game" - ie to stop match-fixing or similar-

ly motivated player transfers. In the old days when football was not a game from which anyone other than the top players expected to make any money, this was all well and good. But now with the game's business potential well recognised and with so many clubs either listed or seeking a listing on the stock market, the rules ing a listing on the stock market, the rules are being tested to the limit. Sheffield United yesterday added its voice to the chorus of those demanding change.

There is no other stock market sector government.

erned by rules of this type. Just imagine the outers if Mercury Asset Management was banned from owning more than 1 per cent of Granada because it had more than 1 per cent of Cariton. As far as institutional shareholders are concerned, the rules are almost certainly unwarranted. It seems hard to believe that Carol Galley of MAM would attempt to fix a match because it suited her purposes that someone other than Man

go further so that one football club can own owning more than I per cent of another. The or control another outright. The business attractions of such consolidation are obvious, allowing clubs to share the costs of marketing, merchandising, ticketing and other overheads. But does it make for a credible League? The dangers are as obvious as the attractions. Is it really possible for two clubs to compete properly with each other when they have a common owner and manager? Ownership of clubs would become concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, and the gap between rich and poor clubs would widen with the birth of nursery, or feeder. clubs, serving their larger masters. Over time the lower football divisions might disappear

> There's not much doubt who will eventually triumph in this debate, however. As always, it will be money.

We're finally getting real about Europe

There is a neat irony in the fact that the great and the good of British industry have ganged together to tug the UK closer to Europe just as German Eurosceptics have mustered their forces to try and prevent Germany from going in to the single currency. United won the League that year - hard to In fact these apparently conflicting tenden-

has made too much of the running, while the debate in Germany has been stifled by the official religion of ever-closer European integration.

On this side of the Channel the businessmen writing to the Financial Times have brought to public attention the potential costs of becoming detached from the European market. Our right-wing Europhobes have used suspicion of the single currency to get the question of outright withdrawal from the EU onto the political

As the businessmen point out, even to talk of this costs investment and jobs. Britain has a real economic interest in remaining a committed member of the EU and the single market, and this has implications for the way Britain conducts its debate over the single currency. This element of the calculus has been drowned out until now by the puerile political uproar over EMU.

In Germany the missing element has been what price the country will have to pay for joining the Euro. The political estab lishment there has been so insistent that Germany will not sacrifice its strong currency because the Maastricht criteria will not be fudged, and so committed to closer integration, that the other costs have been

skated over. These costs are not the obvious spending

industrial subsidies, allow old industries to die and deregulate their labour and goods markets anyway. Maastricht is both an

incentive to do it and a handy scapegoat.

The real cost of joining EMU will be swapping the mark for a softer currency and handing monetary policy to an institution that will probably not be as tough as the Bundesbank. In the eyes of German public opin-ion, this might turn out to be too high a price to pay for closer European links and a more complete single market.

One thing is certain; that the outlook for EMU is becoming less certain. Will it happen on time? Will it go ahead at all? Who will be in? The financial markets will have plenty of opportunity for fun as opinion about these questions shifts during the next 12 to 18 months. What is reassuring is that the quality of the economic policy debate about the single currency has taken a dramatic turn for the better, thanks to the British Europhiles and the German EMU

Hopkins penalised for not going quietly

When big money meets sport, the result believe for everyone except Sir Rocco Forte is not always a harmonious one. Ancient Football League rules bar an investor white owns more than 1 per cent of a club from the football's new investors want to white owns more than 1 per cent of a club from the football ship and construction of the Barings could be supervised and construction of trol the rogue Singapore trader adequately but that he refused to plea bargain with the regulators in return for a light sentence and instead embarked on a highly public campaign to clear his name

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that he has been penalised for presenting himself as the man who tried to blow the whistle as much as anything else. Washing dirty linen in public as opposed to behind the closed doors of an SFA tribunal is a high-risk strat-

Yesterday Mr Hopkins paid the price. He has been hanned from the City for three years, ordered to pay £10,000 towards the SFA's costs, and branded as someone who

is not fit and proper to be a director. Would he have fared any better had he appeared before the tribunal to argue his case? It is hard to say but whatever the outcome he would have been a lot poorer having been landed with all the costs, including those of the SFA which has hired the lead

counsel at the Scott inquiry to press its case. How much simpler it would have been had Mr Hopkins come quietly and agreed to accept a reprimand in return for acknowledging his culpability. He would now be free to resume his livelihood. The SFA may have There is a form of rough justice in the City got its man but public sympathy is g be with Mr Hopkins. And if that is tru certain fashion to Ian Hopkins, one of Nick the SFA has weakened its standing. got its man but public sympathy is going to be with Mr Hopkins. And if that is true, then

Zeneca profits pass £1bn mark

áltogether.

Magnus Grimond

Zeneca, the UK's third-largest drugs group, yesterday revealed that profits broke through the filbn barrier for the first time last year and dismissed suggestions that its soaring share price had been puffed up by bid hopes. Unveiling record profits, turnover and exports, Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said he did not believe there was anything by way of speculation in clestield plant, which manu-the share price, which has factures Zolader, the big selling tripled since the group was de- anti-cancer drug, where the US merged from ICI in mid-1993, partly on hopes the company-will be bid for by a big rival such as Roche of Switzerland.

The yardsticks by which anit, he said. "Most of the share outstanding issues can be reprice is justified on fundames—solved with the FDA to their sattals and contains no bid specuisfaction and we hope these lation within it," he claimed: issues will be resolved by the end

Despite news of a 15 per cent of the mouth," he said rise in underlying profits before The group said it had exceptionals to £1.01 by for products under develo time peak hit on Monday, drop-ping 42p to £18.605. Dealers Glano last year, which has won blamed profit taking after their 10% arrived a distribution of the control of th 1996, the shares fell from the allstrong performance this year

and worries that Zeneca had only one drug in its late-stage development pipeline.

But the group reiterated its aim of achieving average annual carnings growth of 15 per cent over the next five years by building a leading position in anti-cancer drugs and certain agrochemicals, while enhancing its position in other drug areas. Sir David attempted to caim fears about the group's Mac-Food and Drug Administra-tion has identified problems with the manufacturing process. Sir David said 20 inspections of the plant had been completed alysts measured the group's by a variety of regulators over performance were at the upper the past 12 months. "We are end of its sector but not above confident the few remaining

products under development, excluding the Zomig anti-mi-



Sir David Barnes: Dismissed suggestions of speculation affecting Zeneca's share price

The group said it had 18 new to £757m, or 6 per cent excluding exchange movements, but Zeneca warned margins would continue to be constrained by the development and marketing costs of new schizophrenia treatment due products. The group plans to

Zestril, the group's heart drug which goes off patent in 2001, grew sales 11 per cent to £547m in 1996, while Zoladex was up 28 per cent at £333m. Operating losses in the seeds less, now part of a joint ven-

for launch this year. Pharma-raise its US sales force from ture with a Dutch group, were while, restructuring of the speciality chemicals operations. shorn of the specialty inks and textile colours arms last year, pushed profits up a quarter to

Investment column, page 20

Scotia shares crash as diabetes drug is rejected

Magnus Grimond

The power of national drug regulators to move markets in pharmaceuticials companies was demonstrated vividly yesterday. Scotia Holdings, the biotechnology group, saw £189m wiped off its market value at one stage after an-nouncing that the British health authorities had declined to clear for sale a diabetes drug. At the other end of the scale, shares in Glaxo Wellcome, the world's biggest drugs group, were spurred on to new peaks after Sweden approved its new Naramig migraine treatment, a follow on to its blockbuster

Imigran drug. Scotia's shares crashed 245p before recovering to end 135p down at 435p after the company said it had received verbal noincation from the UK's Medicines Control Agency that it could not at present recommend marketing approval for Tarabetic, a drug for treating diabetic neuropathy. The MCA is a key part of the process by which the Ministry of Health

Analysts suggest Scotia's drug could achieve sales of anywhere between £50m and £400m, but David Horrobin, chief executive, suggested the market had overreacted: "This is potentially an important drug, but it is only one of 10 or so projects of equal importance. The problem follows a meet-

ing of the Committee on the Safety of Medicines, an advisory body to the MCA, which has raised concerns about the drug's efficacy. But Mr Horrobin ques-tioned the expertise of the committee's members, saying none of them was expert in the field of diabetic nerve damage. He claimed the 10 to 15 people in the UK who he described as "real experts" in this area were years from patenting a new all "very strongly" in favour of the drug.

Yesterday's regulatory setback for Tarabetic came as Glaxo Wellcome saw its shares all-powerful Food and Drug Ad-Naramig migraine treatment, formerly called naratriptan. the process.

vets new drugs coming on to the The approval by the Swedish Medical Products Agency means it will compete in Europe with Zeneca's Zomig, which it was announced yesterday has won UK approvál.

Glaxo is confident the new treatment will not compete with its Imigran drug, which it claims is used by only 7 per cent of migraine sufferers. The clearance is the first stage to marketing a drug which analysis suggest could reach sales of £200m by 2000.

The drug industry has grown used to these moments of despair and elation after enduring a generation of an approval process born of the Thalidomide scandal of the early 1960s. The process of gaining approvals for drugs lengthened until in the 1980s it was taking 12 compound to getting it on to the market. Since then, a new spirit of commercialism has taken rise 36.5p to a new high of ministration offers drugs com-£11.54, partly on hopes for its panies the option of paying a "user fee" which can speed up

Nomura shares HSBC job for former exchange chief dive as clients turn elsewhere

Richard Lloyd Parry

Shares in Nomura Securities vesterday fell to their lowest level in more than four and a Employees Retirement System. half years, and at least 10 large clients announced that they (Japan) yesterday the flight of the brokerage, after revelations about a trading scandal linking the company with extortionists.

I simply ses Reintennent System. According to BZW Securities of English System. According to BZW Securities are clients announced that they clients could cost Nomura as much as ¥50bn in lost revenues from trading commissions and underwriting new securities. Nomura's shares fell by 1100

Thursday when it announced that two directors illegally funnelled trading profits to a company linked to a racketeer. creasing uncertainty in Japan-At least 10 institutional in- ese finance, as the government vestors have suspended business:

with Nomura since the scandal, and the company's president. Hideo Sakamaki, has indicated that he will probably resign within the next few weeks. Pension Fund Association has

pronounced Nomina unworthy of trading on its behalf. Among the other companies which have suspended their business are Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co. the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan, Sumitomo Trust and Banking. and Mitsui Trust and Banking.

Even the US subsidiary, Nomura Investment Management, has stopped business with its parent company in Tokyo, as has Calpers, the California Public

"It could take several years for to ¥1,370, about 700p, making the ground lost to be recov-a 13 per cent drop since last ered, said David Threadgold.

BZW's analyst in Tokyo: The scandal, and the ensuing losses, come at a time of inembarks on a long-awaited programme of deregulation intended to improve competitiveness - Japan's so-called

Big Bang ... Ayako Sato, of The Japanese government's UBS Securifies, a change of management in Nomura "may delay efforts to devise effective Big Bang counter-measures" On Monday, two managing directors of Nomura resigned Yeslerday, executives of a second Japanese company were arrested on charges that they paid large sums to a so-called sokaiya - a gangster.

Affordable

Healthcare

Lifetime Con Health Care

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

HSBC Holdings, the parent company of the Midland and Hongkong banks, has appointed Paul Chow, the Hong Kong stock exchange's former chief ex-ecutive, as the deputy chief executive officer of its money management arm, HSBC Asset Management.

The 49-year-old Mr Chow is a resolutely low-key technocrat who ran the stock exchange for five years without producing any sparks or making any notable mistakes. His style of management was

collegiate, allowing more flamboyant executives to hog the limelight while he plodded away at his task of making the market grow. Growth is highly valued in

Hong Kong and Mr Chow is credited with presiding over a period during which the capi-talisation of the exchange grew fourfold, mirroring the increase in trading volume. However, unlike some of his predecessors, Mr Chow has not moved into a prime position in. the private sector. Instead, he

will in effect be the numberthree man at HSBC Asset Management, which, unlike the parent company, remains based in Hong Kong.
Mr Chow will report to Robert Duggins, the company's' chief executive officer, and to

him the most senior Chinese

Despite the Hongkong Bank's notable efforts to localise its executive strength, Mr Dug-gins denied that Mr Chow's ethnicity had anything to do with his appointment. He stressed the importance of his background and experience, both at the exchange and at the Sun Hung Kai group, one of the

largest local finance companies.
The post he will fill is a new one focusing mainly on the group's operational and support functions. Mr Duggins sees Mr Chow taking charge of strategic development plans for Hong Kong China, Taiwan and Korea. He said that the deregulation of markets in these areas presented opportunities: "We need someone of Paul's calibre

[to oversee this area] " Mr Chow has allowed himself a four-month period of distance from the stock exchange, following his resignation at the end of last year. "The good thing about joining a fund manage-ment company is that there is no apparent conflict of interest." said Mr Duggins. Fund managers are basically market consumers rather than sellers.

HSBC Asset Management one of East Asia's biggest fund managers, has had a patchy performance record, leading to a number of reorganisations. However, it turned in a sterling performance last year as funds under management rose by 87 per cent to \$44.5bn (£27.7bn). Kevin Gregory, the global chief operating officer. This makes



Expanding: The Hong Kong stock exchange grew fourfold during Paul Chow's period in charge

When Paul Chow left the stock exchange its house magazine, the Securities Journal, hailed his departure with the immodest headline, "The maestro departs". This was backed up by a survey of market practition-

was quoted as saying:

ers who gave him high marks for his period of office. One dealer

"Hong Kong loves a technocrat, and Paul Chow has been

Mercury men move to C&W board

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Cable & Wireless yesterday an-

nounced the latest round of senior job appointments at C&W Communications, its £5bn TV and telephony group formed out of the proposed merger of Mercury Communications and cable operators Nynex Cable Comms and Bell Cablemedia.

Seven management board jobs were made, in addition to the three senior executives already appointed. Three further jobs have still to be filled, raising further questions about

whether C&W can complete the merger in line with its internal target of April. The three remaining posts are understood to to be chief executive of Merbe legal affairs, information systems and marketing.

Five of the seven appointments are Mercury executives Darren Entwistle, Adrian Chamberlain, Rob Fisher, Devid Wickham and Ian Hinchliffe. The other two are Gilles Leclerc, from Bell Cablemedia, and Ted Hatch, from Nynex CableComms.

Peter Howell-Davies, Mercury's chief executive, has not been given a post in the merged group. Graham Wallace, C&W Communications' chief executive, said: "Peter will continue

Mr Wallace dismissed speculation that the appointments had been delayed by haggling over contract terms. Rumours suggested Dick Brown, C&W's American chief executive, had asked that candidates for the new senior management team accept jobs with just a month's notice period. However, Mr Wallace said: "This speculation is absolutely wrong. It is wildly inaccurate.

Labour work plan would cost £1.5bn

The Labour Party's plans to get the long-term unemployed back to work would have a net cost of only £1.5bn over five years and would reduce unemployment by nearly 450,000, according to a paper published yesterday by the Employment Policy Institute. The research, by Labour adviser Professor Richard Layard of the London School of Economics, concludes that enough money to kick-start the scheme could be raised by the windfall tax on the privatised utilities. The cost of running the scheme of about £4.5bn would be offset, according to Professor Layard, by savings in benefits and additional tax receipts which he estimates at £3bn.

Recruitment market gathers pace

The buoyant recruitment market shows no sign of slowing down. according to recently floated recruitment specialists Robert Walters. The company said the recruitment cycle should have a further two or three years to run before it reached its peak. Reporting an 86 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.9m. Robert Walters said it was looking at opening an office in Frankfurt this year to complement offices in Hong Kong. Auckland and Wellington. The founder. Robert Walters, said he had no plans to sell any further

shares. The company reported a maiden dividend of 1.5p. **Granada and YTV in talks**

Granada and Yorkshire Tyne-Tees are in talks to market the whole of northern England as a single region through Laser, their television advertising sales agency. The move could be a prelude to a full bid for YTV from Granada. Investment column, page 20

Independent Insurance profits rise

Independent Insurance Group announced a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, boosted by growth in some areas of its UK business while its French operation broke even. Group profits, excluding investment gains, rose from £33.3m to £40.2m, and the dividend was lifted by 18 per cent to 13.25p. Including investment movements, profits climbed 46 per cent to £52m. The profit and dividend increases were above expectations and the UK performance was "against the trend." said Michael Bright, chief executive,

DBS cleared to push for listing

DBS Management, the independent financial adviser's group, is to press ahead with plans for a stock market listing after receiving the all-clear from the Personal Investment Authority. DBS postponed its float plans in October pending a review by the PIA concerning allegations made by its former compliance director.

The PIA yesterday said it had found the allegations were not supported by the evidence and no formal action would be taken.

Crunch time for Hanson

Hanson, the name that has dominated the stock market for more than a quarter of a century, should discover today whether it will be relegated from the leading F (SE 100 share index. The index's steering committee meets this afternoon to decide the latest round of Footsie promotion: and relegations. Compass is close to qualifying and could displace Hanson, while British Land looks set to replace Argos. Market report, page 22

Thorntons back in the black

Thorntons, the chocolate retailer, has returned to the black after exceptional items forced the group into a £14m loss last year. Profits in the six months to 11 January were £10m compared to £7.6m in the same period last year. Like-for-like sales grew by 13 per cent in the half, with current trading 11 per cent ahead.

relegal

Riches in Zeneca drugs pipeline

Few could have guessed that shares in Zeneca would triple in the space of under four years, but since the spin-off from ICI, Britain's third-biggest drugs group has developed a reputation as one of the best on the market. The question for investors is to what extent the current price reflects long-running hopes that Roche or some other deeppocketed rival may pounce and how much it is a measure of fundamental and Glazo. Hold on. prospects. The former seemed to be gaining the upper hand vesterday, with the shares dipping 42p to £18.605 on profit-taking and gripes that the company's new drugs pipeline was

looking a little empty.

That looks churlish for a company which churned out a 15 per cent rise in underlying profits before excep-tionals of £1.01bn in the year to December. More so when you add in bus operator, between FirstBus and Zeneca's "aspirational target" of Stagecoach, and on a roll. Figures for

cent of the underlying sales growth in the main pharmaceuticals business to £2.44bn came from products launched in the past two years. The cost of developing and launching these products is holding back profits, up an underlying 6 per cent to £757m in the diviion, but the prospects are encouraging. Casodex, the prostate cancer treatment, saw sales jump from £10m to £68m and now claims a 45 per cent share of the US prescriptions market Arimidex, the breast cancer drug, managed £20m sales from a standing start last year, while Accolate. Zeneca's delayed entry into the asthma market, is said to be doing better than Glaxo's rival Flovent. The group is also excited about the

prospects for Zomig, the migraine treatment acquired from Glazo last year. News that Zomig has won its first official approval, from the UK, will pit it against Glaxo's rival Naramig product, which has also just gained its first clearance, from Sweden.

But this is a big market and both Zomig and the Seroquel schizophrenia drug to be launched later this year are set to achieve peak sales well in excess of £200m.

These and other launches should tide the group over any temporary gap in drugs in late-stage trials, while further out, some of the 18 products in the development pipeline will come good. The company can also use its £272m net cash to plug any holes: Zestril, the group's best-selling heart drug, was after all acquired from Merck.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN one-off cost savings, there is a political consensus to improve bus travel

Zeneca : At a stance

102

10.8

Market value: £17.6bm, share price £18.60

1993

633

50.7

444 448

659

48.8

Share price (Pence)

small in group terms, remains a sig-nificant player in the trade, with prof-

its of £11.7m putting it on a par with

stand-alone success stories such as Pen-

dragon. Cowie should benefit from the

manufacturers' desire to rationalise the

The biggest excitement last year,

however, lay in buses, where Cowie

dominates the London market and by

dint of sizeable acquisitions has become

a significant player nationwide. The

£282m purchase of British Bus last year

is still waiting on an MMC investigation,

overlaps with Cowie's existing south

Profits from buses jumped from £10m to £30.4m and with a full-year

contribution from British Bus and the

smaller North East Bus next time, the

division will become the group's dom-

inant arm. Although many of the ben-

efits of the move into buses were

1995 1996

266 67.8

96´.

619

London routes will be required.

fragmented car retail system.

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Currency could hit this year's figures, so profits of £1.1bn would put the shares on a heady forward multiple of 24, but by 1998 that could have fallen to 20, in line with Smithkline Beecham

Cowie catches a

Cowie has come a long way since its failed bid for Henlys five years ago. It is now the country's second-biggest achieving 15 per cent a year average the year to December showed a con-earnings growth over the next five years. There was little to quibble about in has seen profits rise steadily from last year's figures. More than 14 per £11.3m in 1990 to £81.2m in the latest 12-month period, up 46 per cent. During that period, earnings per share have risen almost fivefold from 6.9p to 33.2p and the dividend from 3.7p to 12.4p (10.4p last year).

The biggest profit earner remains the finance division, although the acquisition of British Bus means it will be overtaken this year. Profits from car leasing and fleet management increased from £33.1m to

Turnover (Ebn)...

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Earnlags per share (pence)

Dividends per share (pence)

Sales by therapeutic area (2m, 1996)

and, on a relatively fixed cost base, getting burns on seats could yield significant growth for a while yet, and at much less risk than the train franchises Cowie has (so far) failed to win. On the basis of forecast profits of £34.8m, again the latest in a long line of rises. With 40 per cent of company cars still bought, maintained and disposed of

about £105m, the shares, down 9p yes-terday at 421.5p, trade on 12 times by expensive in-house departments, there is still plenty to go for.

The motor division, while relatively earnings. Good value.

YTT awaits the consummation

When will Granada do the decent thing and consummate its partnership with Yorkshire Tyne-Tees, the rival commercial broadcaster from over the Pennines? Speculation that 27 per cent shareholder Granada will eventually mount a full takeover bid has seen shares in YTT almost double in the last but Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, looked quietly confident yesterday that only minor tweaking where the company year to touch 1,300p. To add spice to the pot, United News & Media, holder of the Meridian and Anglia franchises, sits on 14 per cent of YTT.

Insiders reckon that on current numbers an offer of over 1,320p a share for YTT would be dilutive for Granada's shareholders. But a 40 per cent rise in YTT's pre-tax profit to £30.2m in the year to December underlines the value of its franchise. Sales rose by £9m to £271m while fully diluted earnings per share advanced to 34.5p (25.8p) The figures were struck despite

YTT's share of national advertising revenue falling slightly from 10.7 to 10.3 per cent, partly because telecoms companies concentrated their expenditure in the south. YTT more than made up the shortfall by controlling costs and selling more programmes. But the real kicker for shareholders

is the prospect of early renegotiation of the levy YTT pays to the Treasury for its 10-year licence. It shells out a massive £66m a year, index-linked, for the privilege of broadcasting to Leeds and Newcastle. Levy relief could amount to more than £30m a year and begin as early as 1999. YTT is urging a return to a special duty on advertising, which would be applied to all broadcasters, including pay television operator BSkyB and the Channel Four commercial station, both currently outside the archaic licence fee system. With that windfall in sight and a Granada bid in prospect the shares are

difficult to value on fundamentals, but they are well worth hanging on to.

Marketing guru sends his message in a bottle

John Murphy, the founder of the Interbrand marketing consultancy, is expanding his new brewing venture. The 53-year-old marketing guru has used almost half of the £8m he made from the Interbrand ago to set up St Peter's Brewery, a micro-brewery estab-lished in a 13th century manor house near Bungay in

He has already bought three idyllic pubs nearby and today sees the launch of St Peter's Golden Ale, a bottled beer which Mr Murphy hopes to market internationally. "I'd been working for major brewers for 15 years and it struck me that even though we have a very strong brewing industry we don't have a very strong international brand."

The beer comes in an unusual oval-shaped bottle and is described as "halfway between a lager and a bitter". It has already been accepted by Tesco. Mr Murphy hopes to secure distribution through other large supermarkets before taking the brand overseas.

A stock market flotation is also under consideration for later this year to help raise the brand's profile as well as new funds.

As if this is not enough, Mr Murphy is also chairman of Plymouth Gin, a buy-out from Allied Domecq last year. The gin will be relannched in the US next month. The plan is to re-establish the historic name as one of the world's premier brands in a market dominated by Beefeater and Gordon's. "Plymouth used to be the brand that was always used in pink gin," Mr Murphy tells me. "We have great hopes for it."

Manchester United has swooped in the executive transfer market. The Premiership leaders have signed Peter Kenyon as deputy chief executive, a newly created post. Mr Kenyon, 43, who is a lifePEOPLE & BUSINESS



long United supporter, is currently executive vice president and chief operating

officer of Umbro International, United's kit sponsors. Mr Kenyon will move from Umbro's offices in South Carolina to United's theatre of dreams at Old Trafford. His role at the club will be to develop the United brand overseas, where the market for Giggsie duvet covers and United whisky is thought to have a good deal more

Michael Spencer, head of money brokers Intercapital, has entered the London marathon in a bid to raise £10,000 for charity. The former 40-a-day man (that's fags, not miles) says he will be disappointed if he does not complete the 26-mile circuit in under four and half

He describes his training schedule as "in arrears", but hopes to catch up in a fortnight's time when he is on holiday on the Caribbean island of Mustique, "though I suppose it will be a bit warm". Mr Spencer completed 25 kilometres last week and claims the weight is falling off him. "It's great -

you can eat what you like and

the weight still comes off." He is raising money for the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Steve Morgan, the Redrow founder, claims his retreat to the tax haven of Jersey will not affect his ability to maintain a hands-on role at the house-builder. The millionaire businessman says he can jet in from Jersey to Redrow's Clwyd head office in the same time it takes managing director Paul Pedley to pootle in from his Runcorn home.

Mr Morgan is a frequent fiyer. He regularly flies from Jersey to Liverpool just to watch his beloved Merseysiders play at Anfield.

Mike Hennessy, managing director of Kalon, the paint group, is singing from a dif-ferent hymn sheet again this year. For reasons we can only uess at. Kalon chooses a dif ferent song title to accompany its results presentations each time. Last year it was "More than I can Say." This time it was "Somewhere over the Rainbow". This was se-lected to reflect the possibilities of the merger with Euridep, the French group.

Nigel Cope

DESK TOP PLAIN PAPER HXX PLUS 500 Pages worth of FREE Faxing from Plain crazy

THE PPF700 **PLAIN PAPER FAX** FOR ONLY £399 (INC VAT)

Betacom's PPF700 is a compact, desk top plain paper fax designed to be one of the cheapest on the market. It will give you plain paper fax technology for the same price as most thermal fax machines but none of the vices like expensive rolls of paper and smudged and faded documents that curl up. And it plugs straight into your existing line. For some plain commonsense call Betacom on 0990 673 006.

MERCURY

A MEMBER OF THE CABLE & WIRELESS GROUP

PLAIN SAVINGS

And when you buy the PPF700 and join Mercury's VentureCall service get money off your first bill - enough to cover the cost of sending 500 one page faxes† with the special VentureCall package. But that's not all, with the VentureCall fax package you can make dramatic savings of 60% when you send one page national faxes. For plain savings for your business call Mercury on **0500 200 913** and quote 896 BET.



odd VentureCall and it's special for tariff to your ST lines and you will save 60% against 3T basic rates on one page repond faves of 60 seconds duration made between 8 am and 6 pm Monday to Finday. 'One page national laves of up to 60 seconds duration sent between 8 am and 6 pm Monday to Friday. Offer

BBA returns to growth and hits the acquisition trail

Clifford German

BBA, the acquisitive engineer. yesterday confirmed its return to growth after two years of reorganisation. Roberto Quarta, chief executive, reported a 19 per cent leap in pre-exceptional orofits to £141m last year and plans for a joint project to manufacture friction materials near Peking and a £4m acquisition in Italy, making hi-tech absorbent materials. But profits fell £3m short of market forecasts and the shares tumbled 17p to 350p.

Turnover at the continuing businesses rose 10 per cent to £1.08bn while operating profits rose 26 per cent to £146m. business and provide access to Earnings per share were up a new markets in Thailand, Saudi Earnings per share were up a quarter to 20.6p and the dividend rose from op to 7p.

After allowing for excep-tional charges of £52m in 1995, pre-tax profits more than dou-bled to £142m. The acquisition of the remaining 32 per cent stake in Signature Flight Support in August, and Corovin, a non-woven textile business in Germany, cost £97m. An agreement to buy International Airmotive in Dallas for £176m was signed in December.

Corovin will give the group access to new technology which can be adapted throughout the group's non-woven hygiene

Arabia and South Africa. Duralay, the carpet underlay manufacturer, was sold for £34m. Turnover was equally split be-

tween the transportation and industrial divisions, but profits were split 40:60. The friction materials division overcame weak sales in Germany in the first half of the year and a downturn in the commercial vehicle market in Europe and Scandinavia in particular. The UK market was buoyant and BBA won new orders from

Nissan and Rover. In the US, BBA Friction won new orders from Ford and Chrysler and capacity at the Virginia plant is being doubled to meet increased demand. Signature won new ground handling and baggage contracts and the acquisition of International Airmotive adds engine overhaul and parts distribution

The US market generated 56 per cent of turnover and 51 per cent of profit. Capital spending edged up to £46m, but cash-flow was strong, net borrowing was halved to £16m and gearing fell from 7 to 4 per cent.

Management has been exploiting synergies between the new and old businesses and developing new markets.

BSE and strong pound hinder Harrisons

Tom Stevenson City Editor

Shares in Harrisons & Crosfield fell 9p yesterday to 131.5p after the chemicals, food and timber group painted a gloomy picture of current trading and claimed to be a victim of both BSE in its food and agriculture arm and the strong pound in speciality

Operating profits from continuing businesses nudged ahead from £98.1m to £99.7m, while at the pre-tax line, which included

a final contribution from the now sold plantation business, profits rose by a similar margin to £120.8m (£119.6m). Adjusted earnings per share were 11.1p (11p), while the dividend was

maintained at 9p.
Bill Turcan, chief executive, put a brave face on the figures, saying: "Our chemical businesses had another good year and timber and building supplies recovered well in the second half. We completed our withdrawal from plantations and the group is well placed to take advantage

continuing businesses.

Analysts were less sanguine. however, with forecasts for the current year being pared yes-terday to about £117m. One said: The comment on the food side is what has unsettled people. The implication is that 1997 estimates

are looking too toppy." Chemicals, where Harrisons specialises in chrome and pigments, saw profits rise 12 per cent to £55.9m, at which level they have doubled in five years, with an increase in return on

of opportunities for growth in its sales from 5.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent over that period.

The timber division, which takes in the Harcros builders' merchants, saw profits tumble from £21.9m to £15.3m. All the damage was caused in the first half, and Mr Turcan said Harcros was now seeing the benefit of actions to reduce its cost base and

sharpen its trading focus. Food and agriculture, where operating profits increased from £31.6m to £33.5m, suffered from the effects of BSE, which

_ 				
	Compa	ny Resul	ts	
	2 tsyours	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
BBA Group (F)	1.10bc (1.18bn)	141.lm (118.5m)	20.5p (16.5p)	4.9p (4.2p)
Biotrace (F)	5.03m (3.41m)	-1.24m (-1.5m)	-4.02p (-4.82p)	al
BPP Holdings (F)	75.54m (65.49m)	9.75m (8.5m)	22.9p (19.5p)	13p (11.2p)
Brittoe Group (F)	221,7m (203.8m)	30.42m (19.33m)	19 Sp (10 18p)	3.3p (3.0p)
Cowie Greep (F)	1 12bo (1bo)	81.2m (\$5.8m)	33.2p (25.6p)	12.4p (10.4p)
Cossius Property (F)	26.74m (24.54m)	1.9m (1.71m)	8.8p (8.7p)	4.1p (3.9p)
Editabately Panel Myrs (F)	31.13m (19.62m)	12.6m (12.8m)	26.1p (45.4p)	25p (25p)
Expanse (F)	115 7m (143.9m)	16.1m (31.3m)	19.85p (52.9p)	3.3p (3p)
Ferward Testinology (F)	57.91m (\$8.7m)	-613,000 (3.1m)	-1.8p (6.8p)	1.250 (2.750)
Harrisons & Crossileid (F)	2.05bn (2.05bn)	120.6m (119.6m)	11.2p (19.5p)	9p (9p)
Headway (I)	10,34m (9,35m)	603,000 (430,000)	(2.8p (2.0p)	0.35p (0.3p)
Independent later Erp (F)	-{ - }	52m (35-5m)	80.2p (53.6p)	13.25p (11.25p
Kalon Group (F)	524.8m (374.1m)	19.32m (-2.98m)	3_14p (-1.23p)	5.2p.
korth Midhael Ceest (F)	33.4m (38.4m)	1.39to (1.48m)	9.37p (9.53p)	3.0p (2.0p)
On-Lise (I)	211,587 (-)	46.316 (~)	2.65p (-)	-
Panchins (1)	22,31m (22,95m)	1.29m (1.62m)	4.3p (5.8p)	0.75p (0.75p)
Pestison Grass (P)	889.6m (754.9m)		5 9 tp (5.29p)	3.5p (3.3p)
Peak (F)	162.)m (143.8m)	12.55m (15.98m)	6.9p (9.9p)	3.40 (3.40)
Pittemental (F)	<u>'</u>	171m (-20-26m)		
PTS Group (F)	73.86m (80.96m)		7.4p (7.8p)	3.9p (3.6p)
Redrow Group (I)	123.2m (95.3m)		5.2p (3.8p)	1.2p (1.1p)
Robert Walters (F)	45 93m (23.98m)		11.30 (6.40)	1.5p (3p)
Shelfield United (i)	4 84m (3.95m)	-190,000 (41,000)		-
Thorntains (I)	65.46m (55.83m)		9.55p (7.32p)	1.65p (1.5p)
Torday & Caribbe (F)		1.16m (-247.000)		
Waverley Missing (I)	2.82m (~)	-5.9m (-178,788)	-13.07p (-0.44p)	
VielEngtus Holdings (F)	57.78m (61,25m)		17.0p (14.64p)	8.10 (7.40)
WSP (F)	38.19m (25.32m)	231m (1.80m)	5.4p (4.7p)	2.4p (2.2p)
Yorkshire Tyse-Tees (F)	270.8m (261.8m)	30.2m (21.5m)	39.7p (28.7p)	18p (14p)
Zenesa (F)	5.380n (4.90n)	975m (619m)	67p (35.6pt)	35p (31p)
	4			

Swimwear sales **boost Pentland**

Tom Stevenson

Three-quarters of last year's Olympic swimming medals were won in Speedo costumes, while three out of the four goalkeepers playing in the semi-finals of Euro 96 wore Reusch gloves, according to Pentland, which owns both brands. They contributed to a big jump in profits at the sports and leisure group, which also boasts Ellesse, Mitre and Berghaus among its stable of brands.

Pentland's reported profits were devastated by a one-off £40.4m charge relating to the disposal of its US consumer goods subsidiary Woods Industries, but before exceptional items profits in the year to December rose 28 per cent to £36m (£28.1m). The dividend

rose 6 per cent to 3.5p. The company also anBaird to become finance director, succeeding Frank Far-rant who indicated his intention to leave last year. Meanwhile, Tim Score, group financial controller at Lucas Varity, will become finance director at

William Baird. Stephen Rubin, chairman said the strong profits perfor-mance vindicated the company's decision, following a strategic review, to focus on its core sports, leisure and fashion markets. He said: "Tuis is the activity on which we shall build Pentland's future prosperity." Pentland's shares closed 3p higher at 108p. Sales at Speedo were boosted

by the lannch in March 1996 of Aquablade, a material Pentland described as "the fastest fabric through the water ever developed". The company said three of the four new world records at last summer's Olympics were nounced it had recruited achieved by swimmers wearing Nicholas Webster from William Aquablade.

حكذا من الأصل



Year after year, study after study, one fact remains constant: Macintosh is the easiest way to turn your dreams into reality.

To find out more, call us on: 0800 174574 or visit our Web site at: http://www.euro.apple.com/uk

h and trail

Send bott

Burt Rutan had a dream — to build a twin-engine plane that would fly more economically, symmetrically and significantly safer than conventional designs. Fortunately, Burt Rutan also had a computer

designed to help people dream. An Apple™

Macintosh™ personal computer. Macintosh

computers are packed with some of the

most advanced technology in the

industry, yet they're still the easiest,

most intuitive computers on earth.

They don't get in the way of ideas, but

help people to explore, expand — and

explain themselves. Macintosh computers

help you ask difficult questions. Find elusive

answers and meet the many challenges of trying anything new. Ultimately, Apple Macintosh computers help you get where you're going, even if the final destination is a place you never imagined at the start. On June 17th 1996, Burt Rutan realised his dream. When will you realise yours?

EWETVONE Las adream.

(Our guess is yours has nothing to do with learning how to use a computer.)

Give your dreams a chance.



E Februal T 1997. Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. all rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. The Apple logo is a registered trademark and Apple and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved.

market report/shares

Legendary Hanson clings to a place in the top 100 FTSE 100 4444.3 + 6.9**FTSE 250** Banson, a name that dominated the stock market for 4729.4 + 0.2more than a quarter of a cen-FTSE 350 tury, is on the verge of losing its cherished blue chip Footsie 2194.3 + 2.7status. As the market closed **SEAQ VOLUME** shares of the once-feared predator were clinging to a 2p gain at 301.5p, probably just 1.1bn shares, 61,396 bargains high enough to avoid the in-

dignity of relegation. Compass, the contract caterng group split from Grand Metropolitan, is the main Han-son challenger. If it had held its recent 742.5p peak it would have leap-frogged the old star. But indications Accor, the French leisure giant intended to raise £260m by selling half

launched a four-way demerger. and Imperial Tobacco, have al ready barged into Footsie. The rump of the business, the Hanson building materials group, will, therefore, always be a blue chip struggler although a round of old-style acquisitions

would help its index survival. In the group's heyday take-overs were meat and drink to Lord Hanson. He put through a series of spectactular deals, culminating in an unsuccessful campaign against Imperial Chemical Industries which, among other things, led to the flotation of the Zeneca drugs Argos, the catalogue stores

chain, could, however, be a Footsie casualty following the latest meeting of the index's steering committee. It is likely to be replaced by British Land. Equities failed to hold best

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

under their collective belts. Scotia was the drug sector's Footsie rose 6.9 points (after 28.9) to 4,444.3 with the supbig casualty. Failure to secure approval for Tarabetic, its diabetic drug prospect, sent the shares crashing 135p to 435p. In May they were 806p and early this year were riding comfortably above 700p. porting FTSE 250 index edg-ing ahead to 4,729.4. Turnover was a heady 1.1 billion-plus.

Glaxo Wellcome's rampant progress continued with a 36.5p advance to 1,154p. Besides the wave of US support the drugs giant had the satisfaction of obtaining Swedish approval for another migraine treatment, Naramig. Zeneca's in-line results left the shares 42p off at 1,860.5p. Glaxo's strength rekindled thoughts the drugs giant could be flexing its muscles for a big swoop and that Zeneca could be the

banking group, fell 19.5p to 873.5p after meetings in Scot-land. Williams, buying Chubb Scourity, edged ahead 2.5p to 335.5p in response to institu-tional meetings. Thistle Hotels gained 3p to 188.5p amid talk of an acqui-

sition that could have a significant impact on the group's performance. Imperial Chemical Indus tries enjoyed a 13.5p gain to 752p on the back of an upbeat statement from paint maker

and Standard Chartered, the

Shield Diagnostic, which Kalon, 7p higher at 135p. BOC, the chemicals group, slipped 16.5p to 1,016p as NatWest Securities described plans to host a City investment presentation later this month. stretched a further 38p higher to 655p. . Cookson, ahead of an inthe shares as a "trading sell" and EMI, the showbiz group, put on 27.5p to 1,225p on vestment dinner, gained 3p to 244p. Stockbroker Henderson Panmure Gordon support: Crosthwaite last night hosted the event at London's Savoy

The oil majors gave ground but takeover hopes continued to spur some of the mediumsized players with British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate up a dashing 67.5p to a 1,425p. Barr & Wallace Arnold, the car dealer, advanced 10.5p to 249p. after confirming speculation it might sell its leisure side, largely hotels and coaches.
Rank recently unloaded its

ment buyout and if a merger of the two coach/holiday groups is planned it would form the most powerful force of its kind in the country.

Redrow, the builder, lost 5.5p to 169.5p after chairman Steven Morgan said he intended to sell 54 million shares, cutting his stake to 35 per-

Fibernet, a data networking specialist, rolled out a 39.5p. gain to 184.5p after fixing a partnership with a leading Asian telecommunications group, Telsura. Under the deal Fibernet intends to use the Telstra network to supplement its main high-speed communica-

Share Price Data

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

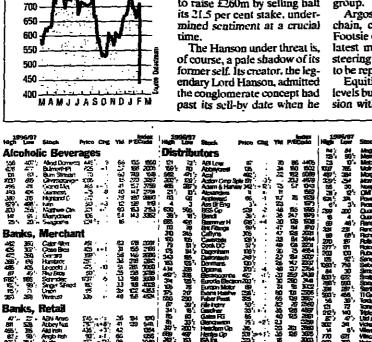
☐ Glenchewton's flintation with pubs may be ending. The pots and pans group, which produced profits up from £677,000 to £1.64m. is said to be willing to sell its Country. Style Imps. looking for interested bayers. Glenchew ton, which said CFTs expansion depended on finding.

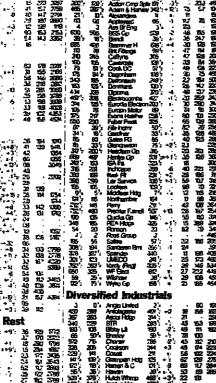
ence to any pub sale in res-terday's results statement. Text 100, a public relations group specialising in hi high-powered Ofex debut, reaching 425 against a 30p placing. Only 800,000 sh of just over film last year, was started 16 years ago – its first client was Rodine, now little more than a gamble on the

Share spotlight

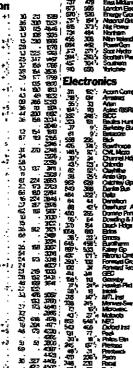
Gilts Index

Data Bank









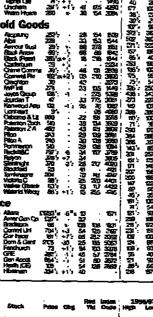


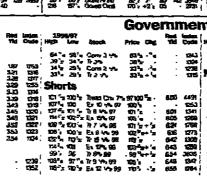








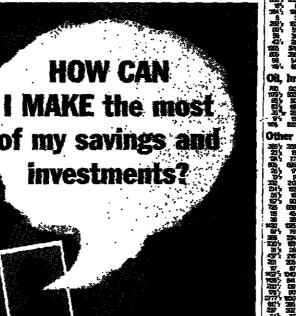






Vodafone, making presen-

tations, was 4p down at 292p



TURN TO Your Money

HOW CAN

investments?

هكذا من الأصل

Joseph America (ad 1974) And America (ad 197	Tid Stock Seel Say Yid Stock Seel Say Yid Stock See Say Yid Stock	Yid Stock Sail Buy Yid	Foreign Exchange Rates
Penditrie En Incomp. 133 27 20 20 30 30 Artisulti Personal 410 20 Artisulti Penditri Penditri 132 27 20 20 30 30 Artisulti Penditri Penditri 132 27 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	Disk 30 Samples for St. 20 12 12 Prophing by 1 Prophing by 1 12 Prophing by 1	Spottisk Life Immirroration 502 at 578 f 2 81	STERLING Country Spot 1 month 3 months Spot 1 months 3 months Spot
Fresh Day	1 Control	250 Boothis British Barrier 2857 2901 2 12 21 21 21 21 21 21	US 16082 19-8 28-25 1000 0.5863 Canada 2.1932 61.9-36 170-162 1.3663 29-26 82-80 0.8071 Germany 2.7937 70-63 207-196 1.7055 33-31 99-96 10000 France 9.2295 223-211 675-841 157-99 110-104 322-312 3.3713 1887 2725.0 26-42 71-94 1697 6 26.5-33.5 73.5-83.5 995-388
Comman Acc	(de 1945) State Company (de 19	ORD PROTESTAL DE SO GEO 3 UN	Table 2725.0 26-42 71-94 1697.6 26.5-33.5 73.5-83.5 995.388 185.60 99-95 286-280 121.85 54-53 157-155 174-423 14-62 14-6
(\$25,94) (11 for \$1.3 201.9 1.7). (\$15 \$\text{Feetings}\$ \$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$10.7) (\$	### 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Select Consequence Select	
2007 19 Acc. Part Conn 1st Acc. 410.00 2627 0.00 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1		Co Assum 1933 111.5 205	teland 1,0289 5-1 15-9 1,5603 5-4 11-9 (0.3739 Moreov 10,941 280-210 730-670 6,6158 50-25 119-69 3,3964
The Frengish Inc. Graph Chart Control	5 6 G Fee 20 Control 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Sheck Version In; 1991 1065 0.67 142 150 Accorn 1190 1266 0.67 142 Scotland Versions Florid Magnet 1607 2.26 1608 Accorn 1608 2.26 1608 2.26 1608 Accorn 1608 2.26 1608 Accorn 1608 2.26	Spein 282.35 12.8-13.9 0.1-0 1 144.75 8.9-8.3 17.0-25.0 84.8725 Swedien 12.255 220-160 640-530 7.6346 41-16 152-101 4.4765 Switzerland 2.2672 23-84 274-280 1.4747 49-46 145-139 6647 Australian 2.0254 2-4 14-4 1.2618 6-8 14-16 0.7398 Hong Kong 12.429 67-26 184-128 7.7430 2-0 2-7 45400
Sens in comis Carlo M. 2007 on Charles Volt Managers, La Carlo M. Charles Volt Managers, La Carlo Managers,	Sec. Amighting for 2003 2014 2015	42 Secultina Waters Final Images 77 Secultina 50 50 50 50 50 60 60 60	Maderina 25705 0-0 0-0 24735 27-30 80-85 14509 New Zealand 2525 25-33 74-86 14-220 22-24 85-87 0.8338
Deptile Courts According Cour	Signature 1997 1998 19	Do Account Do	Singapore 22991 0-0 0-0 1.4323 24-19 70-65 0.8396 OTHER SPOT RATES
2004 1.0 C. A. 1 . CONTROL LINE 466 1666 1666 1666	1.07 1.07	00" UK Spac Sea Act	Country Sterling Dollar Country Sterling Dollar
18 Sententing Con 1917 1922 124 Consider that the property of	- 68 dat 12006 120781 475 bitmont Acc 120700 175 bitmont Acc 120700 1207	. Dr. Spec Stat Ivr. 1937 1 107 1 July 1	Austria 19.2675 12.0032 Officer 0.6162 0.9550 Palestan 94.0233 40.0799 Palestan 94.023 40.0799 China 13.3188 8.2852 Philippines 42.2995 28.3450
MAP IX Group. 19.0 1972 227 discretional jour 1974 1 402 (A) services 1970 1 1972 227 discretional jour 1974 1 402 (A) services 1970 1	## Can Ingrain Inc. 12.27 52.27	Schenzed jedome inc. 176.1 173.2 4.73 Dr. Senger & Rindfander for André Lig 1 27 fine State (Larrich B. (224) 477 25 174 (197) 1977 Design 977 fine (197) 178 (197) 1977 Design 977 fine (197) 178 (197) 1977 Design 977 fine (197)	Friend 8.1807 5.0951 Cens 5.8423 3.5405 Gharta 2964.05 1847.00 Russia 9137.47 5691.00 Russia 7.1160 4.4220
April	Comparison Com	25 UK Exply Income 111.68 4.30 Sectory Income 101 18 4.39 177 Control Income 108.02 5.05 18 Fan 122.49 18 April 19 12.49 18 April 19 12.49 18 April 19 12.49	India 57.5384 35.8450 Tainean 44.2182 27.5400 Kureat 0.4861 0.3040 UAE 5.8950 3.6740 Note: Forward nitre qualited high to lon- are at a discount justiceset fore: spec analy, incese qualited tow to high are at a premium field to speci min). **Dotay rathe qualited as mapproachs. For the based
Enter Income. 151.0 115.24.00 III. III. III. III. III. III. III.	BEST Fill Test 10 74 10.5505.53 10.500 10.5	17 Section Frances 101 18 4.99	ionegyn easteinge natie tiell 0001 123 3033. Calle coat 50p per minute (delty nitti) 45p dates artist.
Anierost Frest Hampsen Ltd Anierost Frest Hampsen Ltd Anierost Ltd An	13	En President Total 125.85 139 15 Football Fund 505 16 Research Roll Life Fund 507.75 0.00 15 Research Roll Life Fund 127.75 0.00 15 Research Total 1000 1000 0.00	Tourist Rates
Appendent Git Income State. So 46.07 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	## 1770 T	33 Comment Track 0001 style 0.87 Comment Track 0.87 Comment	Ausgrafie(Dollars) 1.9700 Prance(France) 8.9000 New Zaelansi(Dollars) 2.2150
Additional for State 1991. See 1991.	Part	77 (Supple Section 2) (Section	Carrentin/Dollars 2:1400 Hong (Knng/Dollars) 12:5000 Spain(Pessitar) 223:0000
Company Comp	Text	Trailer Cos 388, 377 3 USS 387 4 CS 100 1 CS 100	Interest Rates
Antify Access for Super Sures Let 1997	April Complete C	Trailer Cos 284.3	US Japan Base 6.00% Decount 2.50% Prone 8.75% Obcount 0.50% Frence 1.50% Discount 5.00% Belgium
Actor Spec Sia	Comment Comm	2.2 Section Ferrico	Intervention 3.15% Canada Fed Fands 5.25% Discount 2.50% Table Discount 4.75% Spain Discount 3.00% Discount 3.00% Switzertand 3.00% Switzertand 3.00% Discount 3.
Participation Participatio	Age Command Service Comm	On 1261 of the Del Printer Set 2014 Set 23, 23 63	Advances 2.70% Discount 3.25% Repo (Are) 4.10% Lombard 4.125%
701 Smaller Case 7213 227 (2022) Security 1510, 1821 5 (2022) Security 1623 18200 1 (2) Managed jud 1627 4 (1) Security 1623 18200 1 (2) Managed jud 1627 1700 1700 1700 1700 1700 1700 1700 17	The Transford County Co	67 Process Advertige PC 40:19 40:40:223 80 Process Advertige Acc 47:51 47:75 228 30 UR Essay Gm Acc 1986 1226 100 22 Proteix Income Acc 50:40 52:767 11 Proteix Income Acc 50:57 57:57 7.11	Bond Yields Country 5 pr Yield's 10 pr yadd's Country 5 pr Yield's 10 pr yield's
Admitted that Treet Hand Lie Cont Accus Links 1820 17220	Second No. Sec	Permise Income for 50-40 52-1707 11 Permise Income Az 55-57 57-57 1.10 Identified Az 71-59 74-50 1.30 Identified Az 71-59 74-50 1.30 Identified Light Text 45-51 45-52 3.55 Identified Light Text 45-51 45-52 3.55 Identified Light Text 60-52 3.55 Identified	UK 75% 6.88 75% 725 Netherlands 875% 4.72 8.0% 5.55 1.65 8.25% 6.43 6.50% 6.29 Spann 7.5% 6.16 7.35% 6.91 Japan 6.0% 1.35 2.9% 2.47 barly 7.75% 7.14 7.75% 7.48 Australia 10.0% 7.5% 7.26 6.75% 7.20 Selokum 9.0% 4.55 6.25% 6.73
10 Accurate 20.00 276.00 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	Applicated from 19.45 83.00 22 Construction 19.45 83.00 22 Construction 19.45 83.00 25	M. Estaby Gen Acc 88-75 84.50 1.89 M. Estaby Gen Acc 88-75 84.50 1.89 M. Estaby Gen Acc 85.54 87-52 189 M. Estaby Gen Acc 85.54 34-77 824 M. Margaran Acc 88-27 78-35 M. Margaran Acc 88-37 78-35 M. Margaran Acc 88-38 78-38 M. Margaran Acc 88-38 78-38 M. Margaran Acc 88-78 88-30 M. Margaran Acc 88-78 M.	Australia 10.07% 7.52 5.75% 7.00 Beiglum 9.0% 4.55 6.22% 5.75 Germany 8.0% 4.76 5.0% 5.06 Seedem 13.0%, 5.02 5.00% 6.00 France 5.5% 4.66 5.5% 5.54 EU.OAT 8.0% 4.65 5.50% 8.07 Sourcer+SSBC Markatic Resourch Visits calculated on incar peace. ************************************
Baller gallorid & Child State	Specific	Depart Act 27.50 23.31 20.00 Europeen Act 57.34 71.80 0.32 20 Separate New Oak Treat light light 57.34 71.80 0.32 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	Money Market Rates
HS FIRST 1984 CO 1985 1985 1981 Table Committee Commit	OR Gard Principle of Gold 5122 645 FA Single OR Gold 511 495 524 FA Single OR Gold 511 495 524 FA Single OR Gold 51 495 524 FA FA Single OR Gold 51 495 524 FA	36 American 5524 5865 0.00 79 (Accum United 6524 5865 0.00 80 Brest 1411 5 1451 2.51 10 (Accum United 2758 2768 2.5)	D'Night 7 Dey 1 Months 3 Months 5 Months 1 Year Insertants 5 t 6 t 5 t 6 t 5 t 6 t 6 t 6 t 6 t 6 t
691 Incoming 6015 654645.05 Editional Life 2016 2016 6016 6016 6016 6016 6016 6016	GE 10739 11900 Dening 2012 86,66	Account Sensis 2758.8 276.8 251.8 Account Sensis 185.9 185.9 185.9 Account Sensis 185.9 185.9 185.9 Account Sensis 185.9 185.9 185.9 Account Sensis	Court Australity Depts 5% 5% 5% 6% 6% 6% 6% 6%
Dec Color	1) Describe Dates	New York 100	Liffe Financial Futures
Explored Mayof Generals 1992 128.1 2.02 Asser State Com 1891. S 772.5 B Exempt France Control 189.5 136.1 1 Process Labor 189.5 780.0 D Exempt France Process 19 50 197.5 5.20 Capital for 200.5 407.8 1 Beneticus Unicopa Lindbar 1875-884-Sept and Control 1891. Grove 1891. Grove 1891. S 1	Engineer 24.50 41.37 Exporter 144.75 152.46 Gill Company 144.75 152.46 Gill Company 144.75 152.46 Depose 84.22 92.86	Accord Limits S02.9 S0.5 0.07	Contract Settlement High/Low EstConts Open
Page		- Sen America Unit Troot tenger (187 S. 1280.0 1 etc.) - Sen America (187 S. 1280.0 1 etc.) - Sen America (187 S. 1280.0 1 etc.) - Sen America (187 S. 1280.0 1 etc.) - Sen Edit (187 S. 1280.0 1 etc.) - Sen America (187 S. 1280	Inglish Bond (Jun 97) 128-77 127-67 128-52 49154 103334 Jupan Gut Bd (Jun 97) 125-56 127-67 128-55 1796 1/2 1796 1/2 1798 1/2 1798 1/2 1798 1/2 1798 1/2 1798 1/2 1798 1/2 1798 1/2
Owin is no filler 45:45 1835 183 Servicing Biolean 77:16 77:06 77:06 67:06 183 Servicing Biolean 72:77 77:77 Servicing Biolean 82:47 1835 183 Servicing 83:48 183 Servicing 83:48 1835 183 Servicing 83:48 1835 183 Servicing 83:48 1835 183 Servicing 83:48 1835 183 Servicing 83:48 183 Servicing 83:48 1835 183 Servicing 83:48 183 Servicing 83:48 1835 Servicing 83:48 183	Figh he Account Set 4 348.2 3.5 (right he Date of Set 5 348.2 3.5 (right h	Exercises 1 162 7 1639 0161 Exercises 1 162 1 1639 0161 Exercises 1 162 1 1637 4 42 7 Frenchis 1 162 1 163 1 163 1 164 1 165 I IX Leading Cas 86.20 55 14 2 19 Bedien Taste Paymeten Item Equity 81.48 87 15 0.00 Pyymeten Item Equity 81.48 87 15 0.00 Frenchises 1 164 1 165	Sales Sale
Control Cont	NO The company of t	7 Pygmakon Income 55.29 59 12 2.15 7 Sant IR of Camade Unit Myre List 8 Anteres LT 25.50 27.1340.47 2 Europeen 55.21 61.90 0.39 1 (fight encome 33.62 41.09.163	3 Mth Euroswind (Mar 97) 98.09 98.15 98.09 2869 28221
Part	United States 141.5 154.4 152.4 152.4 152.4 152.5 152.4 152.5 152.4 152.5 152.	2 Japan 2346 302(00)) 2 Marganet Americ 150,07 105 00 00	
Recovery 600 May 21 Parasis Code May 21 Constitution for 121 Constitution for 121 Code Code Code Code Code Code Code Code	t II	8 UK Screen inc 69.99 74 45 229 8	Liffe FTSE Index Option Settlement price: 4443 closing offer price Call/Put
South Contine 184 17 8 266 Recold Unide 1844 164 17 17 206 Continue 1844 164 17 206 Continue 1844 164 17 206 Continue 1844 164 164 164 164 164 164 164 164 164 1		European Exempt 113.90 117 4041.05 Asian S Covered: Ex. 34.37 25,44 140 55 Searner Sear Lie Troot Mayori Lid POStor Will, Days PT-Shidat Spin 859 Bay Lie Troot Stage 1177-656 6910	Series 4350 4400 4450 4500 Total/vols Mar 96/10 53/21 23/42 7/76 Apr 124/38 89/55 58/76 35/103
	CALL FREE: Stam to Spen WEEKDAYS and 9am to 5pm Sen and 1 february 1 februa	2 Amer Growth Acc 102.16 106.24 0.07	May 150/63 118/81 88/101 65/128 Jun 182/80 148/88 118/118 94/144 110/161
Baring Pring Maranage Life Transport 70.70 71.71 Visit 10.70 71.71 Visit 10.71	I protection case with mentile he received and randomly invitated lead & General 1991 1991 1992 1992 1992 1992	Fee East Green Acc 147.31 158.71 0.00	Commodities BIDUSTRIAL METALS - London Netal Exchange
Porter (co. State Co. Stat	17 December Street, Lendon BC-N-377 Representative only of the Legal & General Investment Grant	Section Growth Acc. 49.19 90.04 0.00 biggs a section of the sectio	Showne Cash 3 miles Volume Lilië Stocks chg Auminum H3n541-42 1672.5-73 72256 677675 - 2975 - 120 Copper A 2409-12 1249-47 45751 205525 - 3000
Employ 1116 1148 25 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	78 Figh Immorphismath Section	Hings Inc & Gahinc . 98.55 104 (8) 3.29 Hings Inc & Gahinc . 98.55 104 (8) 3.29 (8) 105 (8) 10	Local 687-8 57-1-50 10418 105075 - 100 Adular 7875-65 7861-60 1874 45410 + 12 Ten 5980-70 5570-75 7957 9500 - 2800 200 12075-500 200
Service Grown Sect	17	Mill Income Inc 68.57 72.57 92.00 1 Mill Income Inc 68.57 72.57 92.00 1 Mill Income Inc 75 FT 114.54 3.20 75 FT 114.54 3.20 75 FT 115.54 170 175 FT 175	Sidenest Consessor CS SEm 5/ Stock volumes & change in extense pales 1 6052 1 7081 121 76 tonnés as at Tue 11 Mar PRECIOUS METALS
Profession Acc	International 395.05 394.51 (p.0) Cit income 64.07 201.05(8.54 American Acc 59.40 50.50 10.00 10	TSS User Inspect TSS Average TSS Average	pm fit /oz
October Orth Edward, 73 th 74.72 0 5 FF 100 Seeth 40.55 43.57 10 Seeth 10 S	0 En Pales Acc 1856 187 Acc (Many Units) 2020 2000 (Grown 1978 1873) Spathern Arices 30.00 62.4 1.07	TSB Gameral 255.08 418.07 1.83	Silver spor 297.05 525.0 Britanna 25 oz 83 58 Nobles 368/385 230/240 Gold Burn 351.95 219.28 Britannie 10 oz 45 28 Maprie Laud 355/372 222/232 Bourna Sports & Born AGRICULTURIAL
Smiler Cest 178.0: 188.00 2 1 19 Microsis Dat 101.7: 84.1162. No Nazarri 201.0: 272.76 7 7 19 Microsis Dat 148.0: 178.053. Nazarri 4.52 17 39.01(1) 19 Smiles 160.0: 101.70 1	Comparison Com	Do Accum 851 57 901,13 1,83 TSB Pretiter Income 52.85 55.05 814 Do Accum 135 15 140 et 8.14 TSB Income 118.87 445.24 3,41 Do Accum 584.22 1,041.51	Coope Codie Barley Polations Polations LIFFE Etionni LIFFE Strome LIFFE Etionne LIFFE Etionne ATA Glid100kg Mar 997 Mar 1786 Mar 89.50 Apr 90.50 Mar 10.90
Participal Discord Partici	Section 100.25	Do Accure 417.89 442.32 0.30 TSB international 571.50 710.58 D 10 Do Accure 684.79 906.29 0.10	Many 1070 Many 1765 Many 80.00 Many 56.70 April 11.90 Jul 1012 Jul 1760 Sept 90.25 Jun 88.00 Many 13.10 Vol: 16859 Vol 6737 Vol: 8 Vol 169 Vol: 176
December	Foreign Earnix 50 A7 507 31 100 Foreign United 221.8 224.8 238 248 221.8 224.8 238 248 221.8 224.8 238 248 221.8 224.8 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248 238 248	Do Accus 209.41 271.62 0.25	White Suger
Havington For 1915 1927 1.71 CA that Tomat Namedown 1915 1917 1917 1917 1917 1917 1917 1917	Second Line Train larges Col. O Train Col. O	100 Sector Opps	May 308 8 Feb 1900 May 97 85 H-L0 Setal Aug 2622 Mar 1900 May 97 85 Mar 37:00-50 308:50 Cot 301.0 Vol. 1570 Auf 100:15 May 309:5-304:25 308:25 Vol. 413 Index 1445 Vol. 420 Jul 308:0-302:50 305:25 Cotting Softs (Agricustural)
CES that histograph of COAD 2047 1 (c) CES Colleges (not consider the COAD 2048 1 (c) CES COAD 2048 1 (c) COAD 2048 1 (c) COAD 2048 1 (c) COAD 2048 1 (c) COAD 2048 1	Column C	TSB Selector Income 71 AB 76 Sel 4 10	Mar Majer (No.5)** Sporme 108.0 Mer Soya Olif F./100kg 107.0 Markor Copea (t) Shorme 135.0 Mer Coconu Oli (1) Shorme 762.5 Neg Coton (NY) UScardio 77.80 Mer Surflower Olio Storme ung
DO Processe Chai 1993 345 8 3 9 GT Global Front High Line 255 1 940 8 D1 Do Processe Chai 6 8 5 9 GT S 3 3 9 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Implies Total To	2 T.M. Belt Trust Miningues T.U. Briston T.U. Briston T.U. Briston T.V. Briston T.V	unq Wool Acumulag unq May Represent CHS FL/1004g 1095 Apr Rubber* Mcentifity 306.0 May Groundruit CH Stonia 900.0 Origin: SCAttoriEC - teamy origin - Philipmentatorises **Naturesa ***N Europe Stonius: FT Information/Reuters
10 to the same of the last the	The control of the	Comparison Com	ENERGY Breat Croise (Steams) Geneal (Steams) WTI Products 1 (Steams) IPE 5.30pm *chg *Vr ago IPE close *chg
On teichin American 2027 2027 2027 2027 2027 2027 2027 202	7 Report Children Fr 156.40 127 50 175 174 (1460000 22511 277.5002.1 (Obligation IT light List 14.20 125.50 175 175 114.60000 116.775 114.60000 116.775 114.60000 116.775 114.60000 116.775 114.60000 116.775 116.70000 116.775 116.70000 116.775 116.70000 116.775 116.70000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.7000000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.700000 116.775 116.7000000 116.775 116.7000000 116.775 116.700000000 116.775 116.700000000000000000000000000000000000	0 Dyegother Europe Bd 40.16 41.75 cB.3 Vecam Unite 97.30 69.99 cB.3 Surgeon 375.74 360.44 0.9	Apr 19.10 -0.48 Mar 163.25 -3.75 Apr 20.20 Press, Unineased 20.72209 May 19.04 -0.39 Apr 165.25 3.75 May 20.30 Maprists 190/197 Jun 19.02 -0.39 May 166.50 -3.00 Jun 20.30 EC Gaso# 184/165
American & Gon 190.00 200.00 UK General Rect. 200.2 200.5 Like Chart Creek, 190.00 200.00 UK Spec See 196.4 200.6 10 European Fee 197.50 114.090.20 UK Spec See 196.2 200.6 10 European Fee 197.50 114.090.20 UK Spec See 197.50 200.6 10 European Fee 197.50 114.000.20 UK Spec See 197.50 200.6 10 European Fee 197.50 114.000.20 UK Spec See 197.50		(Accum (max) 35.82 405.04 0.9	Last seems and the second of
(Account Units) Company Company Street, 19 September 19 S	Cit Final In Cit Final In Cit	Accord Unite 75.52 405.04 19	Vol. 29055 India: 18.62 Vol. 23673 Jul. 20.25 Heavy Fust Oil 7960 "stree 3.30cm previous day Year app prizes snow average for what. Source ICS-Landon Oil Reports Tight prices CONSERTABLY VIEW AND CORE.
Sensity Cos 119 70 122 501 20 1001 1001 1001 1001 1001 10	- Modern United 1993 171.20 viscous United 1993 171.20 (According to the Control of the Control	Grant Emp Miles 9821 100 74 0.5 (Actum Umber 165.32 110.25 0.5 1 Japan Umber 67.68 70.86	**************************************
Secretar Cos	- Modern United 1993 171.20 viscous United 1993 171.20 (According to the Control of the Control	Guessi Eru Mikes 692 100 74 0.5 -	**************************************
Semilar Cos	- Modern United 1993 171.20 viscous United 1993 171.20 (According to the Control of the Control	Guessi Eru Mikes 69221 700 74 0.5	**************************************
Page	- Modern United 1993 171.20 viscous United 1993 171.20 (According to the Control of the Control	Guess En Miller 6921 700 74 0.5	**************************************
Part	- Modern United 1993 171.20 viscous United 1993 171.20 (According to the Control of the Control	Guessi Ern Miller 6921 700 74 0.5	**************************************
Page	Control Cont	Greate Front Michae 6921 700 74 0.5	**************************************
Part	Control Cont	Control Fin Miles 682 700 74	**************************************
Part	Control United 1973 1974 1975	Consol Fro Miles 682 700 74	**************************************
175-00.197 1960 1	Control United 1973 1974 1975	Control Fin Miles 682 700 74 0.5	**************************************
175-00.197 186 187	Common C	Control Fee Miles	**************************************
175-00.197	Common C	Control Front Michael 1922 170 74 0.5	**************************************
175-00.197 1960 1	Property 1985 198	Common C	**************************************
175-00.197 1960 1	Property 1985 198	Common C	**************************************
175-00.197 1960 1	Search Land. Se	Common C	**************************************
175-00.197 1960 1	Search Control 1990 1 1	Common C	**************************************

sport

No higher power on rugby league paddock Cream of

Geoff Hilton, priest, bowler and referee, is in charge of tonight's Varsity match. Dave Hadfield reports

he league equivalent of rughy union's University match might need divine intervention before it attracts the same degree of hype. This year it comes its closest yet to

getting that helping hand. Wielding the whistle at Richmond tonight will be Geoff Hilton, Catholic priest, crown green bowler and rugby league referee – a veritable renaissance

Fr Hilton played the game at stand-off and loose forward as a schoolboy in Swinton and later pounded the beat as a policeman in Salford. In 1982. he started the long process of re-training for the priesthood. playing union for an exiles' team in Rome by way of light

When I fractured my ankle in several places. I was asked by the bishop to retire, because I was having to have so much treatment, he said.

When he was ordained and returned to Salford, taking up a post as a hospital chaplain, he returned to his first love, refereeing in the North West Counties and later the Student Rugby League.

On top of his bowling activities - he competes on the notoriously hard-drinking. If it's directed heavy-betting professional different matter.

circuit known as the Panel and is good enough to have reached the final of the sport's secondbiggest knock-out, the Talbot, last year - it makes for a heetic lifestyle, especially now that he

has his own parish in Blackburn.
"If you have several interests, you have to find time," he said. Obviously, if there's a clash between parish matters and sport, the parish matters have to come first. But I love being involved in sport.'

Fr Hilton has become one of the student game's leading ref-erees, taking charge of all their major finals.

"The student game has been making great strides. Standards have improved tremendously in the time that I have been involved. The Student World Cup last year was a very high standard and undoubtedly opened a lot of people's eves."

A clerical involvement in rugby league is not unknown -Fr John Cootes played on the wing for Australia in 1969 and 1970 - but there can be special problems for a priest.

"I referee according to the laws of the game, not any higher authority," Fr Hilton said. "For instance, if players swear at each other I tend to ignore it. If it's directed at me, it's a

"Not that there's much of a problem in the student game, It's a very well-disciplined form

of rugby."
He will hope that holds good tonight, when Oxford meet Cambridge in the Varsity match for the 16th time.

Oxford, who have lost three and drawn one of the last four encounters, have grounds for expecting to break their Under their new coach, the

South African international, Nico Serfontein, the Dark Blues have hit their best form for years and have two players, the winger, Jonathan Parker, and their second-row, John Hobart, in the Great Britain squad.

But Cambridge, behind Oxford on points' difference at the top of their southern division of the SRL, still have their captain and scrum-half, Dave Green, who was outstanding in last year's clash, and Jonathan Griffiths, who played for Paris St Germain last season.

The game is being played in London on an evening during term for the first time, which should encourage a healthy attendance. Usurping that other affair at Twickenham might be a pious hope, but it must be theologically sound to observe



Holding a bible and a whistle, Fr Geoff Hilton combines religion and refereeing

youth to milk deal

A game long associated with beer'n fags will have 15 million advertising sites on a product with healthier connotations this season, writes Dave Hadfield. Dairy Crest, one of the country's leading milk suppliers, will put a new Super League brand of the white stuff on to the shelves of more than 450 supermarkets this month. Better still, it's

The first licensing deal to carry the Super League logo was launched in Bradford vesterday and, apart from £250,000 worth of promotion on litre cartons, the game stands to gain £150,000 for youth development if the brand takes off as Dairy Crest believes it will.

The Rugby League's director of marketing, Mark Newton, said: This shows how far the game has come in 12 months. We are increasingly attracting companies of this sort of profile." Halifax are to open talks with their missing winger, Mark Preston, about a possible return to the game. The former Wigan player has not turned out for Halifax for almost a year, following his decision not to be-

come a full-time professional. Halifax are also talking to another former Wigan player. Kelvin Skerrett, and hoping to sign him in time to play against his old club on Sunday.

Blaze raze play-offs

ice hockey

Solihull Blaze have pulled out of the Premier League play-offs at the 11th hour. (caving the sixteam round-robin competition in chaos. The club is believed to have suffered a player revolt, with the entire team refusing to

play in protest at not being paid. Premier League officials have been forced to scrap the original fixture list and now the remaining five teams - Swindon, Slough, Kingston. Guildford and Telford - will play each other on a home and away basis, leading to semifinals and a final.

Keith Milhench, the Kingston Hawks coach, said: "lt's been absolute mayhem. I can't stress too strongly how disgusted I am at Solihull.

Manchester Storm's Hilton Ruggles will sit out his side's next two Superleague play-off matches following a disciplinary hearing. Ruggles was involved in a brawl with Newcastle Cobras Terho Koskela during Storm's 3-0 defeat last Wednesday. Although both players were handed penalties during the game, a video has shown Ruggles using a helmet during the affray, which means an automatic ban for excessive rough play.

Cambridge end losing streak

Hockey

BILL COLWILL reports from Milton Keynes Oxford University Cambridge University

John Mayer, a second-year medical student, will not forget his 31st-minute goal at the National Hockey Stadium here yesterday. It sent Cambridge on their way to win the 97th University Hockey Bowl, breaking Oxford's run of six successive rictories.

The pattern of the game was

Oxford packing their midfield and defence and only occasionally threatening the Cambridge defence, in which Ian

set in the early minutes, with short-lived when, within seconds in Cambridge's second goal at Oxford packing their midfield of the restart, Bateman was a penalty corner Toby Griffiths, and defence and only occa-given a temporary suspension last year's Oxford captain, and for a tackle on Renwick Irvine and Cambridge had some desperate defending on their hands. They survived and, with Bate-

Sands was outstanding.

Although Oxford played a tactical game, it was Cambridge who looked more likely to score, forcing their first penalty corner in the 31st minute and from it winning a penalty stroke when Ian Bateman was sent crashing by a Oxford defender. Mayer made no mistake from the spot - it was a moment for the Light Blues to sayour. Their joy might have been

lity to convert penalty corners. They brought Roger Wilcock on for each of their eight corners, but it was not his day. Cambridge's captain, Mike Meredith, a former Oxford Blue, made sure of victory in the

final minute when he scrambled

man back on the pitch, began

to move forward again. Oxford's

downfall came with their inabi-

Sands were named players of the match.

OCHORD UNIVERSITY: 1. Crofts (St Catherine's); T Griffiths (ficility); J MacCorvalds (State), Barr (New, cept), B Rawmann (St Catherine's), D Edwards (St Edmund Hell); T Johnson (Jesus), R Invine (Lincoln), B Cope (Bastenose); T Matthews (St Edmund Hell); T

Close stands aside

Cricket

Brian Close has resigned from Yorkshire's Cricket Committee and will serve instead on their Public Relations sub-committee

The 66-year-old former couny and England captain feels that his new role will give him the

"I will be able to express myself more freely and in any case I am also interested in helping to publicise all that Yorkshire cricket has to offer," he said.

cricket chairman last year, has disagreed with the club's policy of recruiting a number of overseas barsmen, the latest being Australia's Michael Slater. "I strongly believe that we

should be giving opportunities

to our own batsmen and would like to see younger players coming through," he added. "There are some other things chance to promote Yorkshire with which I am unhappy but as cricket: a member of the Cricket Com-

mittee I have felt unable to raise them in general committee." Yorkshire's cricket affairs have recently been run largely by the cricket chairman, Bob Platt.



INDEPENDENT

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

LEAGUE TABLE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 2 MARCH

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
ı	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	JOSI MARTI	788
2	MR SEAN BROSNAN	OASIS	760
 3	MR SIMON LIU	DEFENCE ROYERS	755
4	MR ASHLEY BRETTLE	RELEGATION 12	753
<u> </u>	MR GRAHAM LONGSDANE	SANDLING STROLLERS	748
5	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F.C.	748
_	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	ARLENSIU	746
<u></u>	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	745
	MR GARFIELD MCCULLEN	GARFIELD BOYS SECOND	743
9	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	743
11	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE RC	739
}	MR KEITH HORRY	ORGANIC MANURE F.C.	739
13	MR IAN GROUT	SILK CITY	738
	MR JOHN COX	SOUTHFILL F.C.	738
13 15	MR J GODWIN	NORYOOD	736
	MR DARREN NICHOLAS	EDNA	
<u> 16</u>			
<u> </u>	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 2000	
18	MR ROBERT GREENFIELD	THE GULLS	
<u> 19</u>	MR SCOTT MCINERNEY		
19	MR PAUL RICHARDSON	CINCINATI STORM /	
19	MR A MORGAN	KICK START	728
22	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	727
22	MR ANDREW GODDEN	F.C. ALZEY	727
24	MR GARY HARROWS	101 STARS	726
24	MR 0) JOHNSON	THE AWAY WINDLERS	<u>726</u>
24	MR WOODHOUSE	LEE BURNS CHEST	726
24	MR JONATHAN FURNESS	REDSTAR CARDIFF	
28	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	723
28	MR JONATHAN DAVIS	GOLDEN TEAM	723
30	MR S KING	CRUISING ALEXANDRA	
30	DR STEVE GILL	MORE POINTS THAN SOTON	722
32	DR STEPHEN MATTHEWS	IMPERIAL BATES	721
32	DR HORNE	THE FLYING FOXES	721
32	MR R PRINGLE	DEEPDALE VILLA 7	721
<u> 32</u>	MR G WHITE	WHITE CITY	72!
<u> 36</u>	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	<u>720</u>
<u>36</u>	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	720
36	MR ANDY LANE	IF ANYONE CAN TOUCAN	720
39 40	MR BARRY MORGAN MR ANDY SWANNEY	BAZZA'S BOYS	719
40	MR NICK KNIGHT	DOG'S BRICK	718
40 40		KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	718
40 40	MR R RENNICK MR ANDREW BOLTON	WILD ROVERS ANDREW'S B TEAM	718
44	MR P HEMMINGWAY	WAGON WHEELS	717
44	MR P CURRAN		717
 -	MR E J HETHERINGTON	BETRIC	717
27 47	MR PETER FRANKENTAL	SANDINO	716
47	MR M GREGGSON	LITTLE-UNS	716
47		KING OF HOBBIES F.C.	716
**	MR PAUL FULLWOOD	WIND AL MADDIES UP	719

THE ELITE OF THE ELITE

MR DAVID MAHER MR KRISTOV BAFRWALD 716

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY PHILIPS

oday we publish the latest results in our supported by Philips Energy Saver

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 30 (Wk 30) column lists all points scored in Premiership matches played between Monday 3 March - Sunday 9 March inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 9 March.

Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 2 March.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent Fantasy Football game; Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal • 4 points for a goalkeeperidefende clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ I point when a player is selected and plays **= 1 point** for a winning goal = 3 points for a manager win, I point for a draw **= Lose 1 point for a yellow card = Lose 3** points for a red card

PRIZES

Close, who was replaced as and the captain, David Byas.

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

MONTH 6 PRIZE WINNER

lations to Mr Robin Stevenson from Carteston in Oxford who is this months prize winner with his team R.C. Riverside. He has won a pair of tickets to see England's World Cup qualifier with Georgia at Wembley on 30 April 1997. The stah months prize is for matches played between 20 January and 23 February

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES A-After transfer period

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 9 MARCH, WEEK 30 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 3 MARCH - 9 MARCH CODE PLAYER TEAM POINTS VALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM POINTS VALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM POINTS VALUE CODE PLAYER TEAM

COBE	PLAYER	TEAS!	WICH B		VALLE (£m)	CODE PLAYER	TEAM	Wk30 B	A C	VALUE	CODE	PLAYER	 WL38	POENTS	YALUE Cress	CODE	MAYER .	TRAM	Wk30 8). VALÜE (42m)	•
没有是有的,我们们的,我们们们的,我们们们们的,我们们们的,我们们们的,我们们们的,我们们们们的,我们们们们们的,我们们们们的的,我们们们们们们的,我们们们们的	Seaman Bosnich Flowers Rhannech Hitchcock Hitc	ARS AV BLAE CHE COVER CO	488 17	9 元後の 3 円の 1999 7 元 4 19 11 16 元 7 6 4 4 0 12 12 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	\$27.152.1533.475.1655.007.7213.824.834.84 \$1.152.1533.475.1655.007.7213.834.84 \$1.152.1533.1742.155.007.722.152.152.152.152.152.152.152.152.152.1	477 Ruddock 478 Randock 478 Scales 479 Harlmess 480 Neville (C) 485 Neville (C) 486 May 487 Vicken 488 Pearson 489 Vicken 489 Vicken 489 Pearson 489 Vicken 480 May 487 Pearson 489 Cooper 490 Cooper 490 Cooper 490 Cooper 490 Cooper 490 Rearior 500 Jertan 5		1982186 271126 20 84 27 29 21 21 22 28 28 27 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28 28	80417327392213290291054735425425756746577440300002277744711947119471195716377687 8041732739221320291054735425425756744018315557440300002780050611731218029119025567440183155574403000027800506117312180297844018315557440300000000000000000000000000000000	33719982277 #669911154299994112247705144774575-495 5	医线线管线 经经济的 医多种性 医多种性 医多种性 医多种性 医多种性 医多种性 医多种性 医多种性	Blinker Jones Hyde Magliton Vensym Heaney M Clay M	000001717440100010000000000000000000000	92 4 77 9 77 6 15 6 1 22 5 7 5 18 7 32 2 17 33 20 0 4 7 7 2 18 18 3 5 5 12 18 2 2 2 0 0 18 0 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	77 7.0 001 7.2 00 3.7 90 6.7 99 4.4 33 3.5 14 11.1 99 3.7 9 4.4	677 677 677 677 677 677 677 677 677 677	Score		0621611601017223312233041274262311142131140100000000000000000000000000	8 4 4 9 9 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 0 4 3 3 3 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 4 3 3 3 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 4 3 3 3 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 4 3 3 3 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 4 9 4 4 1 2 9 4 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 3 4 9 4 4 1 1 2 9 4 1 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 3 4 9 4 4 1 1 2 9 4 1 1 1 2 3 2 3 3 3 4 9 4 4 1 1 2 9 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	25722161755677141177726711102 G86558813997 B8652131759101102 G86558813997 B8652131759101102 G86558813997 B8652131759101102 G8653813977 B8653813977 B865381397 B86538139 B8653	

حكدًا من الأصل

sport

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England hoping to benefit from confidence of 'Leicester lip'. Chris Hewett reports

Healey quick to express himself

and last of England's and thereby secure a Triple ing Scotland in Paris this weekscrum-half musketeers to Crown. e paraded by the national selectors as a potential long-term successor to Dewi Morris, reacted to the news of his call-up yesterday with his customary degree of self-deprecating mod-esty. "Where do you get your confidence from?" be was asked.

"From my ability," he replied.
Leaving aside the young Cassius Clay, it was difficult to recall a newcomer to the international sporting arena with such bottomless reserves of pure nerve. The longer the 23-year-old livewire from Mersey-cide reflected on the challenge a right player," he said showed encouraging signs of All of which will have been improvement yesterday. If the music to Rowell's ears as the Northampton stand-off fails to tried to restore the con-make it, Mike Cart of Bath will international sporting arena to get to some Ali-style verse. And it would have been no surprise had he ended his press conference by announcing: "I'm feeling so mean, we'll win by

Healey's cocksure perfor-Courage League back rows thirsting for blood. There is hardly a flanker in the land who would not sell his grandmother for the chance to collar the most swaggeringly bold scrum-half in the country, but as the four - Rowell's recent experi-Welsh loose forwards may discover on Saturday, you have Saracens and Northampton's to catch him first.

In naming Healey as the only change to the side that let a golden Grand Slam opportu-nity slip against the French 12 days ago, Jack Rowell, the Eng-land coach, described his freshman as "a very exciting package with a touch of pace that you don't often find in scrumhalves". That pace was there for all to see when the former Waterloo and Orrell wing was given his first taste of international. Africa this summer, should action as a replacement during prove one of the most com-England's game in Dublin last pelling aspects of what promis-

I started in the position when attempt to tame the dragon I was six and I've played millions before the Arms Park is laid to of schoolboy games with a rubble in preparation for a No 9 on my back," he pointed total rebuild. out yesterday. "It's not a case Understandably, given an of my stopping thinking like a entire casebook of English wing, but quite the opposite. When I started playing on the wing. I had to stop myself thinking like a scrum-half." And time as possible to recover how does be think near? "Title from a groin condition that

fidence of players embarking on move off the bench and into the the rocky road of total rugby canddron. Provided Healey's basic surum. According to the coach, the half skills—the passing the box—side picked itself once the kicking—hold up in Test scrum-half issue had been conditions, the phenomenal decided. "We thought of playnatural talent that illuminates every other part of his game should help Phil de Glanville mances for Leicester this sea-son have left any number of and company make sense of their brave new world.

Healey replaces Andy Gomarsall, his stockier, sturdier but more obviously limited rival from Wasps. He started the ments with Kyran Bracken of Matt Dawson had by no means been written off as failures - and it was not until he produced a string of vintage displays during Leicester's stampede through Europe in the Heineken Cup that his case began to appear irrefutable.

His contest with Robert Howley, the Welshman whose yet." own turn of speed makes him the No 1 contender for the Lions scrum-half berth in South month, and Rowell now hopes es to be a mighty occasion. that an early promotion will France may be odds-on light his side's blue touch paper favourities to the up the Five Na-

Not that Healey ever truly of a Gallic Grand Slam can considered himself to be any overshadow the fact that thing other than a scrum-half. England will be making a final end, but not even the prospect

decided. "We thought of playing Jeremy Guscott in the centre because we always do, but when you have someone like Will Carling performing well and justifying his place, it is right to get behind such a distinguished servant until he breasts

If that sounded like a valedictory pat on the back for Carling, the man himself was playing a typically inscrutable hand on the subject of his international future. "There will be no definite decision on retirement until this summer. England's most successful former captain said.

"At the moment, I'm inclined to think that this will be my last Five Nations game, but I don't want to close the door just

SURAPPORT (NEMERICA) 7 STOREGUESTA (SRIT), W. Carling (Harlequare), P. De Chanvil (SRIT), CRU), T. Liedermood (Hemessie); Straysos (Northampton), A. Heeley (Leice cor), G. Roumbree (Leicester), M. Ragi (Bristol), J. Leoteard G'Esriequirsi, M. Johnson (Jaicester), S. Shaw (Bristol), L. Dellagel (Maspa), T. Rodher (Northampton), R. H. Changard, Hesterson, R. H.



Austin Healey (left) horses around with Mike Catt in training yesterday

Penaud out of Paris finale

Alain Penaud, the French stand-off, will miss Saturday's Five Nations match against Scotland at Parc des Princes because of a pulled thigh muscle. He will be replaced by Narbonne's Pierre Bondouy.

A neck injury sustained by the Bath prop David Hilton has forced Scotland to change their substitutes for the match. Peter Wright makes the bench in his

Arthur Hastie, the team manager, said: "Hilton damaged his neck a week ago in training at Bath. He played on Saturday but his condition got worse."

Llanelli have called off Friday's Division One match at home to Treorchy after losing a sixth player to the Welsh squad for the Five Nations game against England. Their flanker Andrew Gibbs

Nigel Davies, Wayne Proctor and Ieuan Evans in the squad and the coach, Gareth Jenkins, will now not risk playing an under-strength side.

David Campese could be the scourge of British teams for one final time as he contemplates ending his career with a Com-

monwealth Games gold medal. The world record Test tryscorer, who announced his retirement from international

rugby on the Wallabies' tour of Britain last year, is considering playing next year in Kuala Lumpur. The 1998 games in Malaysia will feature Sevens rugby for the first time and Campese has not ruled out being part of the Australian team.

"I'd be very interested in competing in the Commonwealth Games," he said yesterday. "But I'd have to be picked

Marshall returns to the Open

Squash

England's Peter Marshall making a comeback after a two-year lay-off, has been drawn to face Australia's Brett Martin in the first round of the Leekes British Open Championships starting on 31 March in Cardiff.

Martin was the last player beaten by Marshall in the British Open, going out in the 1995 semi-finals before Marshall lost to Jansher Khan in the final and was later diagnosed as suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome. After a complete rest, Mar-

shall resumed training three months ago and has already beaten several top British players, including Simon Parke and Paul Johnson. He has been granted a wild-card entry to the British Open as he has no current world ranking.

Pakistan's eight times world champion and British Open title holder, Jansher Khan, will seek his sixth Open title as top seed. For the second successive year, he is drawn to meet Derek Ryan, the Irish champion, in the first round, and another first round repeat sees Peter Nicol facing Paul Johnson.

Domestic hopes will be pinned on the new world No 4. Simon Parke, who missed the 1996 event recovering from surgery and chemotherapy reatment for testicular cancer. His projected semi-final opponent is Jansher.

Australia's world champion, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, is the top seed and favourite to win the women's title for the first time. Another Australian, Michelle Martin, winner for the past three years, is second seed.

The first round takes place at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff, after which the rest of the tournament take place at the

Werst (National Ice Rink).
LEEKES BRITISH OPEN CHAINPIONSHIP (Cardiff, 31 March): Seedings: Mert 1 Jansher Khan (Pak), 2 R Eyles (Aus), 3 P Nicol (Sco), 4 S Parke (Eng), 5 C Walker (Eng), 6 J Power (Can), 7 A Barada (Egypt, 6 & Martin (Aus), 4 Women: 1 S Fitz-Gerald (Aus), 2 M Martin (Aus), 3 C Jackman (Eng), 4 S Winght (Eng), 6 L I Living (Aus), 6 S Horner (Eng), 7 C Owens (Aus), 8 S Shone (Ger).

WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

4 Leicester v Middlesbrough .

5 Manchester Utd v Sheffield Wed1. 6 Newcestle v Coventry. 7 Notingham Forest v 1 hemore uthempton v Arsenal, -4 Southernpren v Avania Call Totternham v Leeds ...

Nationwide Football League First Division

10 Crystal Palace v Norwich 11. Grimsby v Manchester City: 12 Huddersfield v Porsmouth 1.2 Insweh v Bolton 14 Oldham v Wolves. 15 Port Valle y Charlton 16 Reading v Bradford City . 17 Sheffield Littly Oxford Little

18 Southend v OPR 20 Tranmere v Barnsley

22 Bury v Gillingham 24 Crewe v Luton. 25 Milesii v Bournembuth . 26 Peterborough v Stocks 27 Rotherham v Notts County . 28 Shrewsbury v Plymouth itso playing (not on coupenn): Placipool Presson. Playing Sunday: Bristol Rovers v Bristol City.

34 Easter v Sounthorpe... 35 Hardepool v Rochdale -35 Hull City v Brighton.... 87 Northempton v Lincoln . 38 Scarborough v Torquey . 39 Wigen v Cambridge . ying Friday: Cardiff v Doncaster, Colch-er v Mansfield. Playing Sunday: Layton

Bell's Scottish League

40 Aberdeen v Dundee United ... Hearts y Minemian 43 Raith v Dunferintine .

First Division 44 Airdne v Falkirk nok v Partick ... 46 Dundee v St Johnst 47 St James v Morton 48 Stirling v East File

Second Division Also playing (not on compone): Brecher v Cycle; Queen of the South v Hamilton; Sten-

semulr v Dumbarton; Strantaer v Ayr. d Division: Abion Rovers v Queen's Park; dembesth v Arbroeth; East Stirling v Al-Four draws: Evenon v Derby, Tranmere v Barnsley, Crewe v Luzon, Aberdeen v Dundse

Ten homes Manchester Utd. Newcastle, Crystal Palace, Sheffield Utd, Brantford, MR-ved, Carlisie, Hartlepool, Hearts, St Mirren.

joins Spencer John, Mike Voyle, 2.25 MELCHBOURNE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS 1.50 Code Red 2.25 Strathminster 3.00 Reapers

4.40 Mr Conductor 5.15 Lord Lamb GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places),

Right-hand, level course. Run-la 200yds.

GOMPS therefore of A1 and A604. ABBUSSION: Hembers \$12;

Paddock \$8; Course \$4. CAE PARK: Picute area \$1; rest free.

HANKERED FIRST TIME: Last Penny (5.15). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tiger Clear (4.05) has been sent. 245 miles by A Hobbs from Kingsbridge, Devon. 1.50 KEYSOE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 5f 110yds

44P-00 DOON RIDGE (83) Mess L Sates 6 10 5. 44P-006 MICK THE YANK (14) H Oller 7 10 3....

| (CLASS 6) 22,375 added 2m 5f 11.0yds |
10.000 BHIGHTOR (15) Mrs M Restry 5 11.10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
SLEPP.P MAID WARRON (13) B Prece 10 11 10 | ... | ... | ... |
Nogland (7) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
POS-04 BHANARE SENNOIR (ISSN) (7) W Jorks 10 11 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
POS-04 SHANARE (14) B Liestim 10 11 3 | ... | Mr J L Liestim 10 11 3 | ... | Mr J L Liestim 10 00 CODE RED (15) W Mar 4 10 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
OUT CODE RED (15) W Mar 4 10 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
POS-05 SONE ROL (15) (15) Florien 4 10 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) (15) Florien 4 10 5 | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) (15) Florien 4 10 5 | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) (15) Florien 4 10 5 | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) Mar 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) MAR 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
ADD (15) CODE ROLE (15) MAR 15 (15) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

3.35 Iron N Gold 4.05 Stac-Pollaidh

3.00 BLETSOE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) 105P46 CELINO (27) T Forsic 9 11 10. S Wymne 04P0-PO ROYAL SQUARE (DAN) (39) N LETTOSCH 11 119 .X Samle PP1124 THM SQUARE (PAN) (39) N LETTOSCH 11 17 ... R Sample P912-P3 RETAIL RUMMER (21) Mes S Exhearts 12 11 5 ... Me T Hills

- 17 deciared -BETTING: 5-2 Strathminstor, 3-1 Dark Physials, 7-2 Dacelo, 8-1 Leap in The Dark, 9-1 Casille Menn, 16-1 Riction! Outburst, 25-1 others

E) £2,925 ackded 2m 5f 110yds

9009-5 BLATANT OUTBURST (13) Mes S Witton 7 115 ... Sary Lyons
300 BRUMENFORDOUR (23) P One 5 115 ... Intered Other
BRIGHT FLAME Mes S Educate 5 11 5 ... Mr T Hills
40 BUSIER (617) Mrs Bestace Warng 9 11 5 ... 5 Bytes
40 BUSIER (617) Mrs Bestace Warng 9 11 5 ... 5 Bytes
40 BUSIER (617) Mrs Busics Of 611 5 ... Mrs Alberty
32203 LEAP IN THE DARK (11) Mrs I Sedde 8 11 5 ... T Sidde (7)
021-0 MORTHERN STAR (95) P (64cm 6 11 5 ... Mrs D Wombel (7)
051 STRATHIUMSTER (83) N Bale; 6 11 5 ... Mrs M (6agel
0 FFFOTO BUSICAL (21) J Levine 7 11 5 ... Mr M (6agel
0 FFFOTO BUSICAL (21) J Levine 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (9) 6 Board 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O Bernen 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O Bernen 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O Bernen 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O Bernen 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O Bernen 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O BERNEN 7 11 0 ... Mrs Bestace
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O BERNEN 7 11 0 ... D Forti (3)
1 GASTLE MENTS (15) O BERNEN 7 11 0 ... R September 1 10 ... R September 1 11 0 ... R September 1 10 ... R Se

41F-2 REMPERS ROCK (15) (b) Ms S Stratt 10 10 13 JR Wildness (7) 226/P6 SHEELM LAD (20) Ms I Metres Sarmer 9 10 13 _____ Reed PLC-039 CELTIC LINED (21) D Butches 9 10 12 ______ D Butches 2542PF KING'S SHELING (15A) (0) H Ober 10 10 11 _____ A Butches (6) COASTING (15) G Batches 11 10 8 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 MIGHT PARCY (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A McCardby Res 329 BBLI AN RISE OF CS P Perchand 11 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 MIGHT PARCY (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 MIGHT PARCY (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 MIGHT PARCY (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 MIGHT PARCY (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 Might Parch Parcy (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 Might Parch Parcy (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 Might Parch Parcy (15) Ms A Woodtow 9 10 0 _____ A Butches (6) CS-400 Might Parch
- 11 declared -Minutum weight: 10st. True weight: Negli Farry 9st 12b, Ballad Ruler 9st 6b, SETTING: 7-2 Tim Soldier, 4-1 Respons Rock, 5-1 Reball Rumer, 8-1 Celti-no, King's Shilling, 7-1 Celtic Laird, 8-1 Night Fascy, 16-1 others

3.35 LADY RIDERS' CHAMPION (HCAP) HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 110yds

4.05 THURLEIGH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 3m 2f

3.45 LITTLE CLOSE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 6f

5 1P4503 THEER CLAW (40) (CD) A Hotos 11 10 0 Bearrows (5) 6 6445-0 THES METTLE DAMMER (LIS) (CD) U Briggers 13 10 0 .M (Briggers) 4.40 BOLNHURST NOVICE CHASE £4,075 added 2m 4f 110yds

60-F1F GROOWNE (38) J Gilyat 8 11 8 _____ J A McClarity
6-32133 MR CONDUCTOR (42) [D) (BF) R After 6-11 8 ___ R Revenuels
000P1 DEEP SONG (15) P Finchard 7-11 2 _____ R Bellaury
7-330-40 Kattibul (26) K Wingtone 8 11 2 _____ K Gunie
15100F PEGASUS BAY (106) D Carritton 6-11 2 _____ S Michell - 5 decized -BETTING: 6-4 Grooving, 2-1 Mr Conductor, 9-1 Pegasus Bay, 10-1 other

DENSTAR (32) J Wine 4 10 10_____T DENSTAR (32) J Wine 4 10 10_____T DE - 14 declared -BETTINE: 6-4 Lord Lamb, 3-1 Senday Venture, 6-1 Dad's Arwy Two, 8-1

2.10 Court Master 2.40 Sally's Master 3.10 Bit Of A Touch 3.45 Hold Your Ranks 4.20 Kaloore 4.55 Urban Lily 5.30 Top Javalin

GOAMS: Newy, course with short run-in.

Goamse is N of town on ASSO. Sunion 1m. ADMISSION: Tat-tersolis £10; Course \$5. CAR PARK: On rails \$1.50, rest free.

BLINKERED 1ST TIME: None. WIRNERS IN LAST? DAYS: None LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: The Secret Grey (2.10) & Loth-lan Commander (2.40) sen; 212m by D McCain from Cheshire. 2.10 EAST OGWELL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 2m 110yds

BETTRA: 10-11 Court Musicu, 7-2 Imalight, 5-1 Market Muyhem, 6-1 The Secret Grey, 12-1 Bolla Wood, 14-1 Findigue Proc. 20-1 Walk in The Woods

2.40 TEABOY MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 6f

PETTEMS: 5-2 Defendthermater, 7-2 Selly's Twins, 4-1 Resilient, 5-1 Lothian Communitor, 7-1 Willows Resisting, 8-1 Papelles, 12-1 Communital Pride, 16-1 Armatese, 20-1 others

3.10 HORSES FOR COURSES H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 5f 110yds

- 4 deciared -Minimum weight: 10st. True hardisap weight: Jaikreaker 9st 10th. SETTING: 13-8 Alio Secupa, 9-4 Bit Of A Touch, 5-2 Organil Lad, 6-1 Jaikreaker

BETTING: 5-2 Cassio's Boy, 11-4 Ritto, 3-1 La Menorquina, 5-1 Valianthe, 4.20 LITTLE TOWN NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,350 added 2m 5f 110yds

POOR BALDRIU CHANCE (734) F Lorg 3 12 3 Left James Young (7)
BRYNYS STORY 6 Bringtongh 10 12 3 Left James Young (7)
BRYNYS STORY 6 Bringtongh 10 12 3 Left James Young (7)
OF CEDAR SQUARE (958) H Laris 6 12 3 Left James (8)
39/32P GOOD (1968 HERRY (256) 1 Windocarribe 11 12 3 Left James (8)
OF NALOGRE (1,057) P Schoffield S 12 3 Left II 12 3 Left James (7)
OF SEVENTH LOCK (1,057) Miss [Bacedord 11 12 3 Left James (7) V
264V SEVENTH LOCK (1,057) Miss [Bacedord 11 12 3 Left James (7) V
OF TOMYS APACHE (1,056) O Corter 8 12 3 Left James (7)
OF TOMYS GEBUIN STAR (6) O Corter 9 12 3 Left James (7)
OPASSY ABSENT BENDS (956) B YOUNG 11 11 12 Left James S Young (7)
HERRHOYSE MISS A H-Croppes 10 11 12 Left James (7)

gay 6 reco	uf TO-1 Compality with shall be a Committee
1.55	JOKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 1f
	FREDROLY HOUSE (S) (CD) M Pipe (8 12 0D Watch
	TILT TECH FLYER (21) (CD) I Jones 12 10 12 Prior (7)
	URBAN LILY (39) (CD) R Hodges 7 10 9 Harris (7) B
005	ALPINE JOKER (12) P Hobbs 4 10 8 J. J. Kavanagh (5)
000-4	RUNEC SYMBOL (14) M Blanshard 6 10 4 Thornton
	ALICE'S MIRRIOR (14) (D) K Bishop 8 10 2
	POON STICK (14) R Frost 7 10 0 Mr A Holdmorth
	ALDWICK COLONNADE (21) M Uster 10 10 (1 W McFarland
P00060	ROYAL GLINT (11) H Hayrics 8 10 0

 9 declared -Minimum weight 10st. True weights Pooh Stick St. 13th, Aldwick Colornal Ser L20. Roya' Girt Sct 12th.

BETTWIC: 3-1 Urban Lily, 7-2 Priendly House, 4-1 Result Symbol, 5-1 Alpine
Loiter, 7-1 Alexa's Miryor, 8-1 Tilt Tech Piyer, 14-1 Pooh Stick, 16-1 Alchelch
Colonnade, 20-1 Royal Gibri.

5.30 TEMPLERS ROAD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 addled 3m 2f 110yds

- 6 decizand -BETTRIG: 11-10 Top Javalia, 9-4 Keano, 4-1 Stverino, 5-1 Space Cappe 14-1 Bournel, 25-1 Bottle Black

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

7.30 unless stated
COCA-COLA CUP
SEMI-FINAL SECOND LES
Middlesbro (2) v Stockport (0) (7.45)
FA CARLING PREMERSHEP
FA CARLING PREMERSHEP ra Carcless Promiership
Lacde v Southernston (7.45)
Spettled West v Senderland (7.45)
West Hem v Chelson (7.45)
MATIONWISE POOTBALL LEASUE
FIRST ORBESTALL

T DIVISION In's Park Rungers v Reading (7.45) ELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PIGER DIVISION
Where Y Dundee Utd (7.45). CIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Harris Bor-

ough v Heybridge Seats.
DR MARTENS LENGUE Promise Division: Se-dock v Gravesend & Northfeet; Newport AFC v Ashford (7.45); Wideard Divisions Soland Borough v Spushough, Southern Divisions Dertood v Buckingtern Town (7.45); St Lennards Stammert v Haunti (7.45); St LIGHTER STREET, V PERSON (J. AD).
UNEROND LEADING CHARLES CHP Sensional Property of the Assembly of Correlation Control Treet, Bulling First District Control Street Sension Control Sension Sension Control Sension Sension Control Sension Sension Sension Control Sension Sension Sension Control Sension S

INNET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Trujo Briggs v Horsbarn YACA. WHISTORIEAD RENT LEAGUE: Sheppey " UNICEPORT UNITED COUNTRES LEAGUE Pre-mier Oblision: Mirries Blackstone y Buston

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premust never countries east Lengue Pro-mine Division: Desiry v Selby. Schesper Desiry (Engle Premier Desirion Brisington v Mangesteit: Toeston v Borbot. HOUSEANDOS BRISINES NORTHERN LENGUE First Division: Blanguers Synthonia v Vess-ham Red Star.

SERVICON INTERNET LEDICOSE: East Comes MORTH WEST EQUATED LEAGUE First Di-Vision; Dannis v Bosseniale Uni; Canada v

Mossiey.
PRESS & JORDINGAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:
PRESS & JORDINGAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:
Bucker Trade v Name County; Continue and Virtual Femals; Afforbanics v Fort Williams.
LEAGUE OF WILLES: Continue Sey v County.
Continue v viger Cattle John County / County.
Leagues Cop quantum disable bacond lags. Torr
Parties (IA) v Newtoners (IO).
Protecting Counters with Industrian Dector v Protest of the state of the sta

A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR

(7.15); Shreadbury v Winschern (7.0). Third Division: Burry v Derlington (7.0); Limcolli v Scuntarios (7.0); Sociadale v Donessier (7.0); Scadonale v Bossesier (7.0); Avon Bestlössier College (7.0).
Avon Bestlössier College Brestlössier Delicer State) City v Chester Brestlössier Rosen v Cardiff for Valley Chaetton's Southermoth v Mileal (7.0).
RA YOUTH CUP Fifth found: Crystal Palace v Tottenheer (7.0); (at Plough Lengt. Rugby League

7.30 unions states: Lettel, & GENERAL, WARRINY MARCH: Combings University v Oxford University (at Richmond Fill PC). RUGEY LEASUE First Divisions Keightey Coughs v Hult Whitehaven v Featherstone Roses. Rugby Union

HART GENORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMP INNERHY Finals Worselfor & Hamford v Greater Burgingson (8.0) for Luctoriens PEPC). ice bockey SUPERIEMBLE PLAY-OFFS. Group A: Ayr Scottish Engles v Manchester Stratt (7.0). Group B: Stratfield Steelers v Nottingham Parthess

Other sports CTOR: Yonex All-England Open Champ. (National Indoor Avens, Bitmington). BOWE St Men's Home Internets ships (Ballyonomey, Co Antomi.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

> > 162

The number of triles per hour recorded for a struttlecock hit by Simon Archer of Britain's Olympic badmirton squad beating the 142 min by the tenhis player, Mark Philippoussis National the Golfmess Book of Records began the process of verifying the record.

RACING RESULTS CHELTENHAM

2.00: 1. SHADOW LEADER (J Osborne) 5-1; 2. Princettel 25-1; 3. Nordic Breeze 100-1.15 rss. 2-1 for Foregan's Hollow (ed). 10, 1/a (C Egerton, Chaddieucorth). Total 65-50; 52.40, 05.50, 625.40. Dual Forector. 56-50; 52.40, 05.50, 625.40. Dual Forector. 56-50; 52.40, or 10.00 forector. 56-50; 52.40, or 10.00 forector. 56-50; 50.00 forect downs to Creterinam 3.15 100; Non Runner. What's The Vertica. 2.38:1.0R ROYAL (A P.McDay 11-2; 2. Square Sills; 11-2; 3. Cellbate 13-2, 9 ma. 11-10 for McMigen (fee). 4, 6. (M Pice, Wellington). Tota: £7-10; £1-90, £1-80, £1-80, 07: £21-90. CSF: £33-18. Thus: £25-80. Non Rumer: Oh So Risky.

8.15: 1. MAKE A STAND (A P McCoy) 7-1; 2. Themtreworld 33-1; 3. Space Tracker 9-2. 17 rap. 7-2 fav Lorge Action (pulled up). 5. % (M Pipe, Weilington). Total 58-60; £2-90, £6.60, £2.50. DF. £183.20. CSF. £193.06. This: 1.5315,691.

3.65; 1. FLYER'S NAP () Briginari 20-1;
2. Stormanice 25-1; 3. General Command
9-4 (ps. 14 ran. 1/s. 14. (R Almer, Blandfold Forum), Tota: £35,40; £8.70, £3.00.

£1.80, DF. £211.80, CSF: £363.28. Tricast £1,432.48. Tho: £440.50.
4.30: 1. KIMB 11/CIFER (AF R Thombon)
7-2; 2. There For A Run 15-8 fav; 3. Lucky
Dollar 20-1. 11 rais. Nr. 15, (D Nicholson,
Terriple Guting. Totae £4.20; £1.90, £1.70,
£1.50. DF: £4,40. CSF: £9.73. Tricest:
£106.09: Tho: £15.80.
£.08: 1. PHARIANEAR (Air R Thombon)
14-1; 2. Yahusi 7-2 fav; 3. Denifing 33-1;
4. Halte Durring 9-1. 24 ran. 2, 5. (D Nicholson, Temple Guting), Totae £22.00; £4.50.
£1.90. £7.00. £2.60. DF: £38.70. CSP:
£50.1.3. Tricast: £1,582.81. Trice £582.70.
Incharact nor wor. £59.2.72.21 gamed for-

2.20: 1. GRESHSFELD MANOR (S Taylor) 33-1: 2. Shelton Albey 8-1: 3. Bright Des-thry 50-1: 18 ran. 5-2 tay Ruber. 3. %- U Saterson). Toke: £119.50: £12.30, £1.30, £10.20. £2.60. DF: £371.10. CSF: £263.01. Tricast: £11.507.13. True not won; £703.82 carried forward to Chelterham 3.15 today. Jackpot: not worr, £89,272.21 carned forward to Chekenham today. vant to Chetenhert today. Placepol: £332.90, Quadpot: £23.10. Place & £357.96. Place \$: £92.38.

2.10: 1. ELA ASAPI MOU (D Gelegher) 7-1; 2. Inflamont 6-4 fax; 2. Topagion 4-1. 12 ran. 3, 6. (G L Moore). Tota: £9.70; £2.30, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £6.10. CSF: £17.13. Tro:

2.45: 1. RED BRANCH (1) Murphy) 4-6 Far, 2. Brown Robber 6-1; 3. Colonel Cott 14-1. 4 ran. 4, 7, () King, Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.90, CSF: £4.38. NR: Ryton Run. 3.20: 1. SATCOTINO (P Honley) 8-13 fav; oth 4-1; 3. Win J Did 14-1. 9

me. bd., 23. (M Tompkirs). Total £1.70; £1.10, £1.90, £2.50. DF: £2.70. CSF: £3.24, Tno: £5.70. NR: Double Achievement. Following a stawards' inquiry, Brackenheath was disqualified from 1st and placed 2nd. was disquisition from 1st and pasced 270.

3.80; 1. ST VILLE (B Powel) 3-1: 2.

Rogar's Pay 10-1; 2. Smabler 12-1. 6 res.

11-4 fav Swan Street, shi-hd, 9. (R Buckler).

Total £330; £1.70, £3.50. DF: £10.50. CSF:

4.20: 1. CREDON (B Fenton) 7-1; 2. Harristown Lady 6-1; 3. Master Comedy 14-1. 6 ran, 2-1 tov Vcosa, 2¹/_h, 2. (S Woodman), Tother 59,70; 53,30, £3,90. DF: £37.40. CSF: £40.71. 4.85: 1. SPUNGE (D Galagner) 15-8 g fav; 2. Certain Shot 15-8 g fav; 3. Hot 'n Saucy 6-1. 13 ren. 6, 12. (R Johnson Hougman). Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.20. £2.20, DF: £3.90, CSF: £4.50, Tno: £9.20. not: £44.60. Oundant: £19.50.

Place 6: £56.02 Place 5: £39.33. SEDGEFIELD

2.5%: 1. NUWAY IS Taylor) 5-1; 2. Master Fluctures 8-1; 3. Fern Leader 8-11 fev. 12 ran. sti-hq. 8. (M Barnes). Totar £4.50; £1.90, £2.30, £1.50. DF: £16.90, CSF: £44.86, Tric: £27.90. 14.86, Trio: £27.50. 3.30; 1. GLEN CAX NA) M Pachard 2-1: 3. Abelia 11.40 faz 3. Forestowa 7-2.

2. Kushbeloo 11-10 lary 3. Forestown 7-2.

2. Kushbeloo 11-10 lary 3. Forestown 7-2.

7 ran. 1, ni. (0 Duggan), Toke: £2.90; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.94.

4.10: 1. CROSS CANNON (8 Storey) 4-1; 2. Wesser George 6-5 tor; 3. Rove De Valse 8-1. 4 ran. 7, 10. U Wade). Total £4.90. 8-1. 4 Fall. (10.) Wage), four 24.90. DF: £3.20. CSF: £5.1£. 4.45: 1. PONTE/EDRA IN Horrocks! 6-1; 2. Country Orelid 11-4; 3. Wayuphil 5-2 by 12 ma. %, 35. (1.40 gg/ll. Tota: £6.70; £1.70. £1.30. £1.90. Dual Forecast CSF: 522,00.Tno: £12.40, Non Runner

5.20; 1. ROTHARI (R Supple) 7-1; 2. Di-nond Beech 14-1; 3. Jendorcot 16-1. 14 ran. 9-4 fav Clavering (pulled up). stit-hd. sm-hd. (B Rodmell). Tote: £20.00; £4.80, £4.50, £21.70. DF: £31.30. CSF: £115.78. Tnoast: £1,469.35. Tno: not won; £273.02 enham 3.15 today. NR: Mattre De Placement £2,136.20. Quadrut: £131.30. Place 6: 4466.47. Place 5: £92.38.

Mary Reveley and Gary Cabill, the trainer and rider of Supreme Target, tell foul of the Sedgeheld stewards to day when they were found to be in breach of Rule 151 - the non-triers rule following the mare's fourth place bebind Pontevedra in the Stanley Racing Novice Hurdle. Cabill was banned from riding for seven days (20-22, 24-26 and 29 March) while Mrs Reveley was fined £1,000 and the mare sus-pended from racing for 30 days (14 March to 12 April).

SNOW REPORT - in association with Thomas Cook Ski Direct

from 180+ resorts in Europe and North America. Phone or fax: 0891 333 110 SKI SNAPSHOT

SKI HOTLINE

At-a-glance tax guide to snow conditions at 180+ resorts world-0897 500 601

SKIFAX Where to find the best snow - by fax. Call SKIFAX - the ski facts: 0897 300 301

SKICODES For a fax list of 180+ resort codes:

AROUND THE RESORTS atest snow and weather reports Resort Area Last Lwr Upp open snow cm cm . Some six conditions . Snow hard am, heavy pm 80% 103 10 60 40 60 Marniy Suruny 100% 7.3 FRANCE Alpe d'HuezBast sking on Le Sarchne Best sking on Le Sarchne 90% 27.2 100 250 Clear, sunny Some heavy conditions pm 100% 27.2 30 300 Sunshine Lower slopes wet and patchy 100% 6.3 10 150 Mostly surmy, Lower runs heavy pm 100% 24.2 130 210 Surmy, mid ROMANIA 60% 22.2 5 30 Cloudy bright SWITZERLAND 10 80 Fine 10 90 Clear/sunny UNITED STATES : • Calls to 0997 5 parvots rous Etymer • Calls to 0997 savates cool £1.50km • Helpline. 0990 133 345

Expensions the right without the headache. Amongs your deal set haldey was just one boll. SKI DRECT

Call Ski Direct on 01733 33 55 14

Calls to \$16 Direct are recorded to ensure quality costs mor service.



Promise is Hubbard's strong suit

Greg Wood lauds the young pretender contesting today's Champion Chase

young steeplechaser, the chance is there at Cheltenham this afternoon to go one better still and surpass it. From the moment his huge, impeccablybred frame first walked into a parade ring, grand predictions were made for the chasing career of Strong Promise, and at just six years of age, today's Queen Mother Champion Chase may offer the finest opportunity he will ever have to

That his moment could have arrived so soon might seem surprising, since many other jumps-bred store horses of his generation are only now starting to test the water in novice hurdles. Not surprising to Geoff Hubbard, however, the man who cunningly avoids paying training fees by training Strong Promise himself. "He's just that sort of horse," Hubbard said yesterday. "He's terribly well bred [by Strong Gale]. he's very, very fit and if any horse is going to have a chance tomorrow. it's going to be him."

Cynics might say that the only thing more misleading than a confident owner is a confident owner-trainer, yet Hubbard's belief in his young chaser is truly infectious, despite the presence in today's field of Klairon Davis and Viking Flagship, who between them have won the last three runnings of the two-mile championship. "I don't see any problems." Hubbard said. "I might be terribly wrong and they might all heat us, but I've got a funny feeling that if he goes out and he gets in front, any horse that beats him will be the best

two-miler in Europe." There were any number of happy hearts in the blissful yesterday, but few happier than Hubbard's, since the combination of gentle heat and a steady breeze was acting like a hairdry-

Rare indeed is the horse who lives up to his name, but for one tering in recent weeks. This is tering in recent weeks. This is bad news not only for both of Strong Promise's most obvious rivals, but also for Ask Tom, the only other runner in the sevenstrong field who qualifies as a serious danger.

Strong Promise, on the other hand, is a match for anything when the ground rides fast, as he demonstrated in the Comet Chase at Ascot last month when One Man, twice the King George winner, succumbed by length. There were those -"writer-trainers" is Hubbard's dismissive description - who felt that One Man was below his best that day. Shortly after 2.35 today, however, STRONG PROMISE (nap) should demonstrate that the grey did

well to get as close as he did. Anyone offering odds on which of this week's 20 races would provide the tightest finish would probably make the Coral Cup a clear favourite, and a race which in its short life has already become one of the betting highlights of the meeting will again lure any number of punters to their doom.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Golden Spinner (Cheltenham 5.05) NB: Slideofhill (Cheltenham 4.30)

With 29 runners and prices which start at around 8-1, this is never a contest in which deep analysis is likely to be rewarded, but as a sporting, eachway option. Mandys Mantino (3.15), all but propping up William Hill's list at 28-1, could o well. He has been chasing on his last two outings, but previous solid hurdles form - on a spring sunshine at Cheltenham fast surface at Cheltenham, too gives him a fair chance today.

What has started as a disappointing Festival for the Irish will need just five more minutes er on a course which has re- to turn into a disaster if Istabraq



The Flying Phantom crash lands in yesterday's opening race in which the favourite, Finnegan's Hollow (right), also fell

fails to justify favouritism in the Royal SunAlliance Hurdle, which opens today's card. Bet-ting banks which have been carefully built up since last year's meeting will be risked in one big hit on Aidan O'Brien's hurdler, but the evidence from yesterday's form is that the confidence will be misplaced. Mentmore Towers (2.00), from Jenny Pirman's yard, could be their downfall, while Hanakham (3.55) should take the Royal SunAlliance Chase.

Éven the Bumper may fall to a British yard, since there is little evidence of an outstanding runner from across the water. Dawn Leader will be the choice of many, but French Holly (5.40) will offer the value. Dorans Pride is not certain

to run in tomorrow's Gold Cup because of the drying ground. His trainer, Michael Hourigan, intends to declare his challenger today but will leave a decision on his participation as late

Horse	Corei	William Hill	Lectorokea	Total
Kleiron Davis	5-2	2-1	2-1	2.
Yiking Flagship	5-2	94	5-2	11_4
Strong Promise	11-4	100-30	100-30	11-
Ask Tom	5-1	11-2	11-2	13.7
Mertha's Son	8-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Arctic Kinsman	16-1	16-1	12-1	16-1
Lord Dorcet	66-1	56-1	68-1	66-1

QUEEN MOTH	ER CHAI	MPION	CHASE	- 10-1	AR IAL
	1987 8	1 20 4	. 94 92	98 8	96.7 9
Rate of the Separates	द्र द	3 3	20	3	1. 3
When's place is bet	tog 1 1			1 3	
Starting prices:	13-8-15	87411	10°91 me	a11: 4	52 6
Whethe ages -	8 9	8	6. 3	28.7	. 8 . 7
Postit of loss to £1 st	tire favori	des PESA	Stopp F	#0410 es	18.60
Concentrate of whomas				MI	in the same
Shorass-oriend winner	er. Reamiliatio	Man der	1992)	T V	
Longest priced winter				14 - 4.F	ک نوانده
Top trainers: D Nichol			94% 1995)	71	
D Elswort Top Jochny: No jecten	e - Bandre	معادد مرحوت جيسا		1.50	**************************************

CHELTENHAM 2.00: Agistment is very useful but on fast ground is probably better suited by three miles. Istabraq has a tall reputation but bookmakers are being more than vigilant with his odds. MENTMORE TOWERS looks better value, Jenny Pitman's grey won a bumper on fast ground last season and a fluent success at Uttozeter last time indicated he will go close today.

2.35: KLAIRON DAVIS, who won this race last year and the Arkle in 1995, has hit form at the right time he won at Navan recently - goes on fast ground and can complete a Festival hat-trick. Arctic Kinsman. who gave Viking Flagship a race at Kempton and is a former Festival winner, looks an interesting outsider but the main danger to the selection looks sure to come from fastground specialist Strong Promise. Ask Tom would prefer more cut, while Martha's Son and Lord

3.15: Mystical City acts well on fast going and will be a threat if recap-turing the form that saw him win

Dorcet look up against it.

Trucker, BLAST FREEZE, another best on a sound surface, has been specially trained for this prize by a stable with a good Festival record. He imbered up with a third-place finish over an inadequate two miles at Wincanton last time. Tullymurry Toll, unbeaten this season, must be feared.

3.55: DJEDDAH has recorded two smart performances in his forays here from France, looking partic-ularly impressive when taking a Grade One novice chase at Kempon an Bouing Day. Both success-es were on fast ground. Martin Pipe's novices are to be feared and both Endipe and Indian Tracker have claims. The former is the sein his three runs in this country and in his previous races in France, he

Hollow's downfall leaves a void

GREG WOOD reports from Cheltenham

The cheer which greeted the start of the Festival yesterday was as heartfelt as ever, but so too was the groan which quick by followed. When Finnegan's Hollow hit the turf three out in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle, an armoured car's worth of major bers, including two of £10,000 to win £30,000 went with him, and for many the grim process of getting out of trouble had started even before the first winner was past the post.

Not that there was not some cause for celebration, since Shadow Leader, one of the most impressive winners the race has seen, had attracted sufficient support to shrink to 5-1 second favourite. Immediate post-race offers for next year's Champion Hurdle were as short as 20-1, though the medical nature of the comments by Charlie Egerton, his trainer, implied that backers looking that far

ahead should take care. "Shadow Leader has had bad knees and we kept patching them up," Egerton said. "He has been a difficult horse to train, we had problems with recurring lameness and we nearly stopped him at Christmas. Things have been going wrong all year so now I think I will celebrate."

The weather-beaten faces in the ring cracked into even broader smiles half an hour later, when Mulligan became the second hot favourite to make an early exit in the Arkle Trophy (Large Action completed an unfortunate treble in the Champion when he too failed to complete). Or Royal, Martin Pipe's 15th Festival winner, was the one to benefit in the Arkle. after a thrilling head-to-head battle with Squire Silk from the last fence which probably made the victory appear more difficult than it was. He may even at-tempt to follow up in the Cath-cart Chase tomorrow.

Flyers Nap, winner of the 1995 Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase, completed his own Festival double in the Astec Buzz Shops Chase, but many backers thoughts were with Maamur, pulled up early in the race with a fractured right leg. The pop-





You thought **Dunwoody** had won everything. At 2.40pm,

QUEEN	MOTHER	CHAM	PION CHASE
	. Chellenham		
2/1 Klai	ron Davis	18/1	Martha's Son
5/2 Viki	ng Flagship	12/1	Arctic Kinsman
10/3 Stro	ing Promise	66/1	Lord Darcet
11/2 Ask	Tom		-

he will have.

(Viking Flagship: 5/2.)

	E/W one-quarter	the odds a	pince 1,2.
	CORAL CUP	H'CAP	HURDLE
	2m 5f. Cheilenharr	. 3.15pm.	Live on CH4.
7/1	Tullymurry Toff	22/1	Mystical City
8/1	Copper Boy	25/1	Ballyrihy Boy
	Supreme Lady	25/1	Metastasio
12/1	Blast Freeze	25H	Niimenen

8/1	Supreme Lady	25/1	Metastasio
2/1	Blast Freeze	25/1	Nijmegen
	Rawy	28/1	Sesame Seed
4/1	Castie Sweep	33/1	Gysart
4/1	Direct Route	50/1	Dr Leynt
4/1	Ela Mata		Lying Eyes
4/1	Family Way	50/1	Non Vintage
6/1	Sea Victor	58/1	Tamarpour
BÝ1	Kissair		Eton Gale
0/1	Executive Design		Fatack
2/1	Allegation	100/1	Edgemoor Prince
2/1	Big Strand	2007	Scottish Wedding

withdrawalks) SP place terms and Type

Ladbrokes

For the Festival, Ladbrokes are favourite.

2.00 Agistment 3.15 BLAST FREEZE (nap) 3.55 Djeddah (nb)

1	by Brestol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Casells \$20; Courage Enclosure \$10. CAR PARK: \$5.	ab \$50; Tattes
١	SIS	
	■ URADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: D Nicholson— 59 numers gives a success ratio of 10.2% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$ — 6 winners, 127 runners, 4.2%, -\$70.00; E O'Grady — 4 winners, 17 r +\$18.50; A L T Moore — 3 winners, 18 numers, 16.7%, +\$3.50. ■ LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKETS: C F Swam — 9 winners, 55 rides, 16 M Dwyer — 5 winners, 37 rides, 13.5%, +\$19.00; N Williamson — 4 win 11.1%, +\$6.30; A Magnire — 4 winners, 29 rides, 14.3%, -\$7.00. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Harbour Island (2.00): Tamerpour (3.15) (4.30); Sideofall (4.30). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: NO LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS (FROM WITHIN BRITAIN): Ballyline sext 318 miss by W Kemp from Duns, Borders.	26.00; M Pla umers, 27.5% i.4%, +531.75 mers, 19 rides i; Ballyes Bo ne.
1	200 ROYAL SUNALLIANCE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS (Grade 1) £45,000 added 2m 5f £49,585	V C4
i	1 161.111 AGENTAR (AD (Marriage de Marcade) (EpiGordo S 11.7	O Parameter
ı	2 42212 BOSS DOYLE (34) (Mrs A M Dayn M Morrs (In) S 11 7	C O'Dwye
ì	3 16130 DARKYDAN (46) (C) (D A lowestry M Pice 5 11 7	R Haghe
ı	4 123053 DEFROIL TIMES (12) P M Dowing G Lyons (II) 5 11 7	S C Lyon
1	5 220-112 FOREST MORY (34) (D) The Old Forestes Partnershot D Nicholson 6.11	/R Johnson
Į		
ı	7 116 HARBOUR ISLAND (25) Naccom 8 Jones M Pipe 5 11 7 8 41-2016 HARBOURE (58) 687 (TA Consugers Lon 6 Baiding 7 11 7 9 2111 ISTABRAU (38) U P McHanusi A O'Bren in 6 11 7 10 P54 LICOMANB USA) (25) Sir Er Parien / Grand 6 11 7 11 1-74213 MARCHING MARQUES (25) (M And 6 Warcester) Nod 1 Crance 6 11 7	_N TEN OPSON I
١	0 - 3411 RELIBERT (30 III proposed V Committee (11)	
ı	10 PSI LETIMANE RESALTED SE FOR PROPERTIES SELECTION AND A TOTAL T	د المارية الم
ì	11 1-UUZ13 MARCHING MARCRES (25) (M And G Viorgester) Noel I Change 6 11 7	AP McCo
ı	12 1-221 MIGHTHOOR TOWERS (22) Phop Nation Ms. J Part of 511 7	R Faman
ł	13 3-11222 MIGHTY MIOSS (25) (K Pussy) D Nicholson 6 11 7	
ı	14 66PO MORECEIA (40) (Virs Paler Dervery) Papoy Famel 7 11, 7	
Į	15 10-425 NASONE (48) John Packetti J GStat 6 11 7	
1	15 10-25 MeSCHE (46) John Packet) 165mt 6 11 7 15 11303 PRUSSIA (22) (The Prusse Partnership) W Cay 6 11 7 17 1203-11 RED BLAZER (42) (Eors of the laze Mr T H Shimpton) Mess H Kinga 6 11	
Į	17 LOG-11 NEW BLACES PAGINGUES OF SEE NO MET IN SHAIPURI MES IN MESSE & 12	. r Upperm
1	19 73-5121 THE PROMS (19) Mrs. Minute N Testan-Daues 6 11 7	_ Climate
ı	15 22F361. ROYALTINIO (19) (D) (Herri de Pracontal) F Doumen (FH 5 11 7	D Bridassia
1	f - 20 declared -	
1	BETTREE: 13-8 Intelligent, 6-1 Agistment, 7-1 Red Blazer, 8-1 Royaltino, 10-1 Monte	
ł	Forest every, Mighty Moss, 20-1 Marching Marquis, The Proces, 33-1 Boss Doyle,	Description, Disp
1	cutt Tisses, Harboer Island, Soldet, 50-1 others 1990: Unutande 6 11 7 C F Snor B-1 (4 P O'Bnen) 24 ran	
I	1	
1	FORM GUIDE It can be argued that ROYALTING did not best much in a novice hundle at Kempton 19 d	to see the el
J	it can be argued the northernian and not cost, louds to a nower mode at recordant to be followed by the first person that the first person is a subject to the first person to be former to be former to be former.	s more poss p
1	running Friendship close at Sandown last Friday. But Francois Doumen thinks a fair bit	of Royaltono, who
1	was conceeding 9th to most of his Heimstein mals and was unsweed by the steady galling. R	oyalimo manager
ſ	to wan impressively despite having to endure a four and a half hours' delay (rough stas) a	

CHELTENHAM

acti-hand, galloping course with suff fences. Uphull run-in of 240yd. Journe is mie mile north of town olf A435. Bus link from Chekenham rall station (served

4.30 Filmsy Truth

5.40 Dawn Leader

	2	235	(Grade 1) £130,000 added 2m £81,650	-C4					
l	1	121F-U2	ARCTIC KINSMAN (18) (0) (Mrs P. E. Harriston N. Twiston-Dones 9 12 0	_C Llowel					
ì	2	161-121	ASK TOSK (SS) (D) (B Separt-Brown) Table 8 12 0	R Gert					
	3	41-2721	ICLARRON DARKS (FR) (32) (CD) C lones) A L T Moore (m) 8 12 0	F Woo					
l	4	3-3F312	LORD DORGET (28) (D) John Hose) J Charton 7 12 (J Qaba					
	5	1113/2-F	MARTHA'S SON (188 (D) (F J Hartzer) T Forster 10 12 0	R Feets					
l	Ğ	112141	STRONG PROMISE (35) (C) (D) IG 4 Hubbard G Hubbard 6 12 0	JF VFEDARS					
ı	7		VINDING PLAGSHIP (28) (CD) Reach Foots Limited: D Nicholson 10 12 0						
~ 7 declared ~									
	BETTING: 16-8 Raince Daries, 5-2 Villing Flagship, 7-2 Strong Promise, 5-1 Ask Tom, 12-1 Marth								
١	Son 2014 Artie Kinsman St.1 Loss Bornel								

1996: Maron Davis 7 12 0 F Woods 9-1 (A L T Moore) 7 ran 1996: Namon Davis 7 12 0 F Woods 9-1 (A L T Moore) 7 ran
"PORTAL GENEE"

Flading on the chack blo-miers puts the screen on STRICHES PROMISE, who is prohably best with a greater
emphasis on stamma. Het he has always protrised to be an outstanding creen and will love the grounds
the has worn here out of eight ower briess this term, novice everts at Humington, Ascrain and here and business
the has hand has do to be the stammar to be come chase, both at Ascou, Time, motes can be putsed in
the comer from 2m 3/M with the Nata Raing to scalink and Sound Man closting a fence or three lands
Storig Promest, virtues createrable also motive a security of Charlenger Du Liuc in the Alughtin's Gold Genries in November, comes here freghered up by a love lock break and is going and greater. Malliness Davids
from the Artic Chase has years pack, is the detection, break and is going and greater. Malliness Davids
from David Raip plenty graing by him after a book-to-from estorial in Bann last time. He acts well enough
on good ground to be marked down as the one to bear. Many Raighting has may beg to differ and David
lighting terms, who also has be Malling Chase and Stepting land may help to differ and obtain
the first when the marked down as the one to bear. Many Raighting has may beg to differ and David
lighting terms, when both to Asia Team from a conservation of the heregon in January before an ordinary
and weight reams. The course of th

S. T. SV	the Caway Hun	me nom spac
315	CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS £40,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £41,4	B) 💥 🚉
0,20	<u>'.</u> £40,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £41,4	86 <u>(25.32)</u>
1 133-13	23 CASTLE SWEEP (44) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 6 12 0	R Johnson
2 1-112	32 MANDYS MARTINU (20) (C) (D) (SF) (JOTH PROJEC) / GROO / 11, 8	HIP
3 0000-6	61. ALLEGATION (19) (C) (Martin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 7 11 6	A P McCoy \
4 41151	13 DEFECT ROUTE (\$25) (Ches Heron) J Howard Johnson 6 11 2	رو مونال المسيد،
5 11226	60 MYSTICAL CITY (95) (Frantom Syndicate) W Multins (N) 7 11 1	
5 511-11	11 TULLYMURKY TOFF (39) () H Wison & Mr J H Stept J M Jesseson 6 :	(D 13. E Calleghan (3
7 4112-1	10 EXECUTIVE DESIGN (60) (LT Foster) Mrs M Revisey 5 10 10	P 1840
8 203-00	03 KBSSABR (18) (C) (Terry Berson) M Henderson 6 10 8	
9 1133-1	11 SUPREME LADY (32) (The Supreme Lady Pastnersho) Miss H Wingld	(Culton) ليسمد 10 6
10 4257-2	24 FAMBLY WAY (80) U P McManusl A LT Moore (M) 10 10 5	F Woods
11 11034	R3 BLAST FREEZE (20) (Planes Heat-Treatment) N Hendeson 8 10 4	N A 7722000
12 100-22	21. RANNY RUSAN (60) U P McMarusi C Roche 96) 5 10 4	
13 66500	D1. NON VINTAGE (22) (Han Mann) M Chapman 6 10 4	W Workship
14 517-1	11 COPPER BOY (33) (D) (C Raymond) R Buckler 8 10 4	Post
75 07-0564	05 DR LEUNT (25) (Peter Ernery) P Hoobs 6 10 3	
16 020-05	50 20.005659 (25) AV Harcock) J. FicSeald 9 10 3	
1/ 53451	15 MECRIANOU (III) IF MERCHI VIMOVORI (III 7 JU 3	
16 3-1211	11. ELA MATA (51) (D) (F J Sainsbury) Mrs A Swinbark 5 10 2 21. BMS STRAND (19) (E C Jones) M Pipe 8 10 0	التحقق السيبيسية. والمحال فأسط
19 MM-17	01- TRANSPOUR (USA) (1799) (D) (Mrs Alson C Ferrant) M Pipe 10 10	مورت موروني
20 033/	No. Transferonte frank (Trans) for the restrict Listers of 10 0	1 Bosse (1) 2
22 44 425	2F ENSURY (ST) (Mrs R Cobboto) M Pipe 8 10 0	(1) Partie C
23 40404	O FADACK (18) (C) Clearny W S Barnetti P Webber 8 10 0	
21 WHILE 53 (TLTEL	5 SESAME SEED (18) (Raymond Tracti) N Henderson 9 10 0	مادين المجيديين. مادين الم
25 110	23 SEA VICTOR (11) (D) (I Dand Abel) J L Hares 5 10 0	مراجون ر
25 22/21	11 BALLYRENY BOY (27) (Al J College) Capt D Swan (40 6 10 0	C 2 2
27 22.63	TO THE CONTROL OF FREE AND STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CONTROL OF	R Winhes
22 12170	F3 ETCH GALE (39) (M F Violati) Thomas Foley (40 8 10 0	D Bridgester
29 40311	14 SCOTTISH WEDDING (27) (D) (C Westman, Reynolds & Dean) T Well	7 10 0 . R Messey (3)
	- 29 decimal -	, ,,

Minimum weight: 10st. Non-handisap weights Lying Eyes 9st 13th, Gysart 9st 13th, Fasack 9st 12th, Sesares Seet 19st 11th, See Victor 9st 10th, Bodyriny Boy 9st 9th, Ehm Gale 9st 2th, Edgemoor Prince But 10th, Sections Westing 7st 3th.

BETTENE 13-2 Tellymanny Tolf, 8-1 Suprema Ludy, 9-1 Copper Boy, 16-1 Blast Frenze, 12-1 Burry, 14-1 Castle Sweep, Em Main, 16-1 Big Strand, Direct Route, Executive Design, 20-1 Allegation, Family Way, Nismair, 25-1 Sullythy Boy, Manaly's Mantino, Methastasio, Mignoger, Sea Victor, 33-2 others

1996: Trangot 9 10 3 M Dwyer 11-2 U G FizsSeraldi 20 ran

1996: Transpot 9 10 3 M Dayer 11-2 U G Frasberald 20 mn

FORM GREDE

SUPPREME LADY could do with slower ground, but it is true stamina test is a compensatory factor and sive gets in here with what tooks a fair weight. She gain lim Cultony an american ride at Unionziar last stree until bending to draw stumps after Intelling the form and no doubt, she will be produced fore writer. Gress Rose, 1990, in the march final in heavy ground at Newbury last March. Tallymanny Yadf is Sib higher than writen besting Yathm and company in the Yose Boolemeises Hundia at Sendoum less three but this chesing type has done exerything right this term in extending this sequence of win to live and he is sure to sun a big size. Blook Freeze is one who will reach this ground and he shaped well when third to Dreams End at Wandton Carly last him. He would have gene close at Donasater Carlett on third to Dreams End at Wandton Carlett last him. He would have gene close at Donasater Carlett on the responsance but for lasting at the last. Castle Sweep is a close comender out he can make the odd restale and hazing 12st to carry means excepting must go right. but Copper Bey is an up and conting stayer who boile a templing proto-street with 18st 400 considering connections almost opied for temporous's Supers' Hundia. He was well at Newton 18st 400 considering connections almost opied for temporous's Supers' Hundia. He was well at Newton 18st 400 considering on the scene as somewhat delicate closectes who needs holding up for a borst at the end. what there are doubte over the sammer of Research and Research Leader's thought by his transer to be poorly handcasped but this house, second in a Trumph Hundia. It worth leaguing faith in whose well as the time. He was Waterge and the useful nance Elim Malan make some appeal along with the glood-ground tover, Manay's Malantino.

Selections SUPREME LADY

ģO	d-gound k	ver, Mandy's Manting.	Selection: SUPREME LADY
[3.55	ROYAL SUNALLIANCE (NOVICE) CHASE (CI (Grade 1) £75,000 added 3m 1f £57,282	ASS A)
1		BALLYLDEE (24) (The 49 Partnersho) W Kemp 6 11 4	###############################
2	11F-113	BARONET (39) (D) (Nes David Thompson) D Nicholson 7 11 4	R_Johanner
3	270-111	BELL STAFFBOY (18) OF W Bell & Son (18) 1 O'Shed B 11 4	Milchael Sreamer
4	22-1141	BERUDE NOT TO (19) IG Addiscord O Shewood 8 11 4	
5	3 UF22	BUCKHOUSE BOY (25) (The Bawky Boys) N Tweston-Davies 7 11	4D Exidensites
6	FOP-111	CORNET (18) (S J O'Sulbant A O'Brien (NO 7 11 4	CFS==0
7		CROWN EQUERRY (14) (BF) (Robert Detent) G Richards 7 11 4_	
8		DJEDOAH (FR) (35) (Mrs Stelly Bleam) F Doumen (Fr) 6 11 4	
9		SLITTER ISLE (28) (Mrs. Timothy Polenotori) / Gellord 7 11 4	
10		HAMAICHAM (20) (D) (M Breveton) R Hodges 8 11 4	
11	47-2375	HAMMANA SAM (27) (Robert K Russell) Andrew Russell 7 11 4	G Crone
15		SECURAL TRACKER (39) (37) (38) (Jos & Joanne Richards) M. Pipe T	
13		NAMERAZE (33) (BF) (Marci B Catarsbury) K Bailer 7 11 4	
14		LORD MUFF (10) (Lute: Corner) Lute Corner8 11 4	
15		THE LAST PLING (25) (D) (RF) (M Jectson Boodshow) Mrs S Sm	
16		EUDIPE (FIB CIS) (C) A Johnson) M Pros 5 10 8	

legiand with artpression credientals having wich all three states piet famoes, gladig a bester performance and time as he has septimal up in grade, this jumping is a big asset, the only question being whether, this trigi an Tracker, he will be as effective on this taster ground. Blackbooms Boy, despite being 10th bester in, we

	_		trar grey come no	t de savec
	[4.30	NATIONAL HUNT (AMATEUR REDERS) CHASE J£25,000 added 4m Penalty Value £21,525	(CLASS
00	1.	04-1165	BALLYEA BOY (33) (Danis Barryl D Nicholson 7 12 7	.Atr & Thomson
de	2.	4-1112311	CRPO CASONETIN (S) (D C G Oyle-Thompson) Miss H Knight 8 12 7	Hir A Yile
ı۷	3	331115	CARDINAL RULE (12) (87) (Peter J Burch) Mass Venetie Williams 8 12 7.	
	4	12172	DROBBLEGG, (35) (J Blackwell, T Chappell, T Cury & D Nichols P Nichols 7	
(3)	5		FLENSY TRUTH (32) (C) (M H Weston) M Weston 11 12 7	
[3]	8		GENERAL POSSO (32) SAs J K Possili T George 8 12 7	
	· 7	41211U	BRISH LIGHT (22) (Michael J McDonegh) Michael J McDoragh (in) 9 12 7	Mr A Mor
dy	8.	146811	MACAURITA (L1) (Mrs F Whelen) A McRamara (M) 7 12 7	Mr.J.T. Multana
dy .	g		REMIDDON' HARVEST (22) (C.C. Buckley) Mrs M Reveloy 8 12 7	
ds M B	` <u>10</u>		DRIAD'S BROOK (25) (Record Club HCB) K Balley 8 12 4	
	11		ITSCHUNGLEDUTTNESSE (28) OM F Moones M Moones (Int) 7 12 4	
	12	1-RI	"MASTER NET (195 U N R (Minute) J (Minute) 8 12 4	
200	13	290031	· YOL PAR HELT (USA) (37) (D O Metrope) F Doumen 17g6 12 4	
el .			CERROWEN (33) (Mrs 5 Greathead) T Greathead 7 12 2	
ey B	15	1P-1P33	JASSEU (130 (A G Lan) K Ballow 7 12-2	_Hr & Herbark
Ē	16	423533	CHARLE PARSOT (29) (Mrs. Alson C Facent) M Pipe 7 12 0 EASY BREEZY (19) (Grandle J Harper & Pathess C Marin 7 12 0	Jile A Finance
08	17	04-8424	EASY BREEZY (19) (Grandle J Harper & Partness C Marin 7 12 0	Mr.M Armytan
-	18	U4042P	LOCH GARMAN HOREL (23) (Dan Half) P Dalton 8 12 0	
B		224	PARAMANTY (25) (Highlest) G Baking 7 12 D	Bir b C'Bris
7	20	0253PP	PLASSY BOY (7) (The Sebestian Dengarisals Partnership) K Busie 8 12 0.	KrX Villace
В	21	03-4042	RICESAND (33) (Str Brian McGreth) & Beiding 8 12 0	
	22	3-262	SUDEOFHEL (22) (17 McMare et) 13 O'Note 8 12 0	Mr P Feeton
òė	23	COLFED &	WINDE WONDER (26) (P 10 Portions) M Brokensk 7 12 0	Mr C Some
	24	10 212	LETTLE MARTINA (32) (8F) (Christopher Newport) D Gressel 9 11 13	Mr C Boss
	25	522232	COOLAFINIA 217) (Million Haville) A Reny Ort 8 11 9	' Mr 2 See
85	26	510055	YOUNG MIRS MELLY (12) (Mrs P & Kely) Eric McHarman (807 11 9	Mr G 1 Harto
			_ 26 dertwed _	
3	BR	TING: 11-2	l Voi Par Neil, 6-1 Rendom Harvest, 8-1 Stdeofhill, 10-1 Denits Re	ak. Georgal Po

gs. Roberod, 12-1 Sultyes Boy, 14-1 Druestens, Arisk Light, 16-1 Resignations outlines, Graphs 20-1 Cookstata, Little Martins, 25-1 Filmsy Rush, Macaenta, Young Mrs Refly, 23-1 others 1996: Losing Around 8 11 13 Mr P Ferson 10-1 (E.) O'Crathy 22 ren

FORM CHIDE

ROBEAGO showed he needs the distance when fourth behind Direct's Brook at Tourcester (2m3t) in Jenuary, Robeard put up an even below performance when going down lighting to let Rules over 3m4t there lest time. Bellyon Boy was an artisant hit when their dever forces senter in the season, which are the lest time. Bellyon boy was an artisant hit when their direct had a light and the lest time.

,	LEI DESTACE DE CITE MANDIOLIN ANGON ANGON ANGON	-
5.05	MILDMAY OF FLETE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £30,044	£35,0
1 39-0151	'a-i	
2 2F1130	MEN CO (25) (C) (Chars of the tale Mis L C Roren) M Monts (In) 9 11 8	
3 23221-1	AIR SHRT (25) Mrs Peter Provided D Nichelson 7 11 7	CI belle
4 03/11/3-	ROUNDAY (474) (D) (Peter Micros) Mrs. J Plenton 11 11 6	D E
5 32-2131	GOLDEN SPRINER (32) (D) Ohrs H Matterd-Jonesi N Henderson 10 11 S	A A Films
6 2-16313	8EL15 UPE (23) (BIF) (R (2005) P Hobbs 8 11 4	G To
1 341/42-5	CAMERION (FR) (19) (D) (Sim Lems) T Kestly 7 11 2	
8 P1464-5 9 P011-32	PASSETO (46) (C) (D) (Reymond Tooth) N Henderson 10 11 2	_R Disse
10 FP-55P1	ALL THE ACES (25) (D) UP Medianus) J J Oriest 10:10:11	
11 31321-2	DESTRY CALLS (L1) (D) (EF) (MIS R W S Baker) H Gassing 7 109	CF5
12 1 6 6 6 7	TIERCAD (229) KUN IK A KARAMICKI NY PINA 11 170 7	
13 12- <u>2232</u>	SOUTHWEFTON (25) (EF) (Highways) G Balting 7:10 6	N Feet
14 0-18121	MOTHER (145) (07) (C H McGhrel R Falter 7 10 1	
15 13/1/31	AS DU TREFLE (FID (19) (D.A. Lohrson) M Pipe 9 10 0	_APM
16 F11142	BEXTSON (34) (C) Date E 8 Gentinen R Buckler 8 10 0	الوطائب
Alinhou en mald	- 16 decision - ht: 10st, True handize, weights, Section 9st 12h,	
BETTIME 7-2	As Du Treffe, 6-1 Destiny Calle, 18-2 Noyan, 15-2 Air Shot, 8-1 Golden:	
New Co. 12-1	Montanita King 14.1 Northern Line 16.1 26 Ten Anna Sale, 2-1 2004en	SPIEDE,

1996: Oic Bridge S 9 7 G Crone 14-1 (Anthrew Turnell) 13 rest DESTRY CALLS is an improving even-year-old and be put up in december from once when besting Southerns too long till better in and not veidly faing as well this season) and Challenger Di Luc over this specialist distance at Southern less April: Golden Spitoner instess in habit of winning over this distance and conversees in good form either his Di-length defeat of Eastburge at Newforky lest month, Koweldon Marg has gone from strength to strength since beating Southernplan (12th better in) over two makes here. In November, the 'Un Traile has come back in remarkable form considering he maked time whole seasons and he has lest-

er p	chasing I	line 3 duck to water.	DESTRIY CA
5	تت	WEATHERBYS CHAMPION RUMPER (OPEN NH F (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £25,000 added 2m 110yo	e £197
1	12	ARCIDC CARPER (12) (D) (B) (Safe Harris) D Miracines E 11 G	
2	W-2	DALLAU BRANKET IDSI 148 ILI CARDIAN I SASSAMI S 74 S	Ti comme
3	- 3	MUSU ISBN (C.) M MART II MART II T T F	
4	3-112	DEGREE 25 HELL LELL (THE DAME KNITTONS MANUFACES IN MICHELLANDE 4 & A	
5	1-1	DANN LEADER (26) (D) (Boruspani) J Old 6 11 6	
6	5122	DAWN LEADER (25) (D) (BOLLEDING) J Old 5 11 5 DOM SELTIMANO FRE (22) (Del Weigen N Telesco-Davies 5 11 6	
7			
8	· 1.	PLUMBLE PERIOL (175) ON MOREY ITH ADMAN WANGES ARE 44 A	
9			
10			
1	115	RANOS (FR) (22) (B A Migrandic) M Pipe 5 11 6	بوردها بر ده. ساده د .
12			
13			
14			
15			
16	1	SAMELEL THE LESCOPPE COS) COS (COS MAY Green bly Projected In Milestonium C 44 4	
17			
18			
19			
20			
Ħ	- 4	WIT INE CHETANES CITI IN IL VINNOSSI I IN IRAM WO 1 (U.1.)	
22		Prima Prima 2, 1920 BM V P NEMBRUD A CHROSC (AL 4 10 17	858
23	1	FRANCE WILLOW 442 (7) Sits & Measurery P Graffin (4) 4 10 12	14-0
24	•	SHIPPING PLANTING THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY	

هكذا من الأصل

ashall and Mound B

& com

est Har

Ms holds tion of the

Hamburg

is target

for Graf's

return

Steffi Graf, who will lose her

world No 1 ranking to Martina

Hingis on 31 March after a to-

tal of 377 weeks at the top, is

hoping to make a comeback at

the end of April in the German

Open in Hamburg. Graf, who has been out of ac-

tion for more than a month, is

to undergo an examination on

her injured knee in the next few

days.
The 27-year-old Graf has

not played since the semi-finals

of the Tokyo tournament on 1

February. She has trained a lit-

tle since then, but doctors have

told her not to do anything too

strenuous or put too much

Mark Philippoussis, the 20-year-old Australian who won the

ATP tournament in Scottsdale

on Sunday, was yesterday se-

lected for the Davis Cup squad

Philippoussis returns to the learn after missing the Aus-

tralian Open and the Davis Cup

first-round tie against France due

He joins Patrick Rafter, Todd

Woodbridge and Mark Wood-

forde for the quarter-final

against the Czech Republic in

Adelaide from 4 to 6 April.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

playing in her first tournament under her new coach, her eldest

brother, Emilio, advanced to the quarter-finals of the Evert Cup

Sanchez Vicario, the top

May, easily beat Asa Carlsson,

of Sweden, 6-1, 6-3. However

the third-seeded Anke Huber

lost 6-4, 6-3 to Nathalie Tauzi-

at, the 13th seed from France.

Vicario will meet Sandrine Tes-

tud of France in one quarter-fi-

nal, while Tauziat takes on the

sixth seed, Irina Spirlea of Ro-

Attendances

fall in NFL

American football

Attendances fell in the Na-

tional Football League by al-

most 600,000 last season but the

total was still the second-highest

in the league's 77-year history.

18.648.981, down from 1995's record total of 19,202,757. The

regular-season total of more

than 14.6m, an average of 60.885

per game, was also the second

For the third consecutive

season, the Kansas City Chiefs

led the NFL in regular-season home attendance with an eight-game total of 628,460.

Darryl Henley, the former

Los Angeles Ram, has been

sentenced to more than 40 years

in prison for drug trafficking and

conspiracy to commit murder.

highest behind 1995's total.

Total paid attendance was

In the quarter-finals Sanchez

in Indian Wells, California.

to tendinitis in his right arm.

to play the Czech Republic.

Tennis IAN TASKER

Liverpool set for Anfield showdown against United

Manchester United could have to conquer Anfield on 19 April to retain their Premiership crown after Liverpool wrested control of the title into their own

T Mange

quit

Chimin a crisis.

#48 ^{*} #12.: 취공

A IN said of

ar Crosser

் அள்க (கொழக்

on impression

far trat week

William of Alex

Service Comm

527 11. 1

Street, Street, Street, St.

a form supplied

. We like a satal

4.2000

الأعلى المائع المائع

2018 N

-- `** ** 5

ંજીની વસ્તી જેવા 🦸

Ser Burdhall

Only a point behind after the wild drama of their last gasp déjà vu 4-3 triumph over Newcastle on Monday, they will be champions if they win all their

remaining games.
"I'll settle for 4-3 from the next nine games - my heart can take it, just about," the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, said. His fury at the loss of a 3-0 lead had the dressing-room walls

"We have never been out of it. People keep saying teams are in and out of the race like a yoyo but I still think there are five teams with a very good chance."

That includes Newcastle, who still have to go to Old Trafford, a game that will need rescheduling from 23 April if United reach the European Cup semi-finals.

Kenny Dalglish's side, shellshocked after history repeated itself right down to the injurytime winner by Robbie Fowler, have to make up nine points

from their last 10 games, a daunting challenge.
"When we got it back to 3-3 it was looking perfect for Manchester United; but instead victory was perfect for Liverpool and bad for us," the Newcastle manager insisted. "But it's not finished yet, is it? I didn't see anyone handing out the champ-ionship medals after the game, just as they didn't after the 4-3

"It puts Liverpool in a better position than us but we still have to go to United - and anything

United, though unexpectedly vulnerable at Sunderland and with their focus now firm-Porto, remain the bookies' favourites. That has as much to

Bilic committed to West Ham's cause

Slaven Bilic is in West Ham's Park tonight after assuring his manager Harry Redknapp that he is committed to the club's relegation fight for the rest of the

The Croat centre-back infuriated the club's supporters when it emerged that he had for transfer talks with Everton at the weekend. However, he has rejected Everton manager Joe Royle's offer, which would have made him the Liverpool club's best paid player if he had left the Hammers under a clause in his newly signed Up-ton Park contract which allows him to deal with top clubs that offer more than £4.5m.

have called me stupid for not going to Everton now but it was never my intention to leave at this time. I want to reassure West Ham I am staying for at least the rest of the season. I am not the rat who leaves a sinking ship, as I have been told somebody called me."

Wrexham yesterday broke their outgoing transfer record by selling their promising midficider Bryan Hughes to Birmingham City for a fee of £1m.

"it's a massive fee for a 20year-old Second Division play-cr, but I met Trevor Francis last night and he obviously thinks I'm worth it," Hughes said.

The striker Daniele Dichio is ready to leave Queen's Park Rangers at the end of the season despite turning down the year.

chance to leave Loftus Road and join Wimbledon's Pre-

iniership campaign. "A move to Wimbledon was team to face Chelsea at Upton .. not right for my career at this stage, but I am a free agent in the summer and would look at any opportunity to play abroad, Dichio said.

the club rejected Queen's Park pened. Rangers' latest offer. The £2.5m rated striker has a clause in his contract saying he has to be told of all bids over £2m, but it has proved worthless as Stoke have so far informed him and then reject all offers.

Andy Dibble was baving talks with Rangers yesterday and is keen to make his loan move permanent. Rangers want to sign the Manchester City goalkeep-Theo Snelders

Theo Snelders.

Steve Gritt, the Brighton and flash.

Hove Albion manager, has hinted he might resign if his club are extra touch," he complained docked more points by the But he insists his rage was Football Association.

Albion could be facing more punishment after home fans mvaded the pitch during the thrilling 4-4 home draw with Leyton Orient. Five arrests were made after fans allegedly attacked one of Orient's goalscorers, Scott McLeish, and the former England midfielder

Ray Wilkins.
The Barcelona coach, Bobby Robson, said yesterday he has started legal proceedings against his previous club, Porto, over alleged unpaid salaries and bonuses dating from last

arrogance Liverpool have about their game as their occasional

"When this side plays to its full potential, it probably has more flamboyance and more flair than any of the other Liverpool sides I have played in." John Barnes, their captain, said. "But that's not what's important. We need to play well in every game, not just for one in three. When United won it last year I felt we were the best side and when Blackburn won the League I felt United were the best. But the champions were more consistent and that's what

"Occasionally we will win 5-0 and play beautiful football and that's great. But I would rather us play close to our potential and grind out results."

That is why Barnes rates the ly on the European Cap after -1980s Liverpool side as the their scintillaring victory over best of all time, a mean machine that never failed to kill off sides when it had them round the throat. Not so Evans' current side, who have so often demonstrated an attitude bordering on smugness and, in this deadly brave new world of the global Premiership, that can prove fatal. It cost them the FA Cup tie

at Chebea and no fewer than 15 home points dropped this sea-son. Fowler said: "I was delighted to get the winner because when it got to 3-3 I thought that was it. But it's vital that we start winning all our home games."

Evans was right to point out how stupid it would have been to have lost a match they totally Mike Sheron is ready to ask controlled for more than 70 Stoke City for a transfer after . minutes, but it so nearly hap-

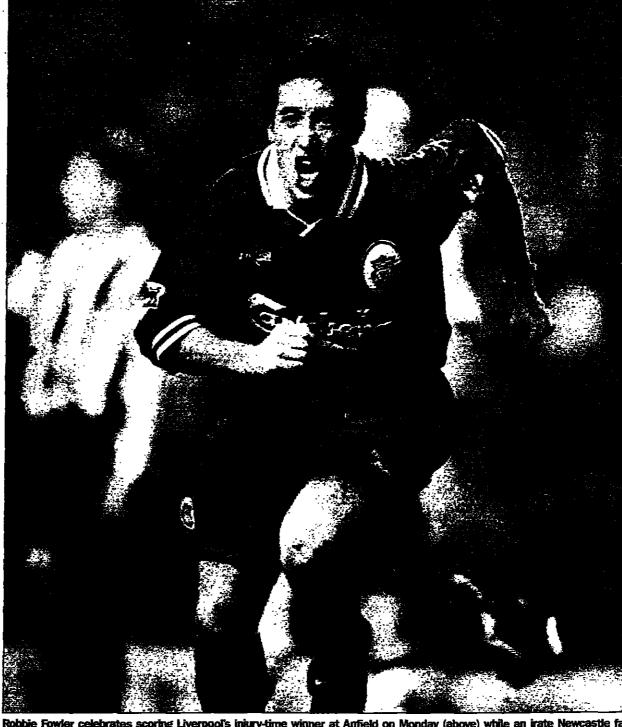
> This was not the cut and thrust of last April's seven-goal thriller, the pragmatism of Dalgish replacing the cavalier instincts of Kevin Keegan to the disgust of Newcastle fans who had never seen such a spineless display from their side.
> Chelsea's bravery earned

their comeback at the Bridge but the Geordies only got back simple things and started getting

short-lived: "I concentrated on the positive side - three points against Newcastle and some fantastic football. That's good enough for me in the end."

It was, after all, yet another match-of-the-season in this developing rivalry between two gi-ant clubs, and for one man at least, it was a joy to be at the heart of all the rollercoaster

"It's the best game I have been involved in for many years," said the referee, David Elleray. "Fantastic, open football, a few mistakes and everything that English football is all about."



seed, who has not won a tour-Robbie Fowler celebrates scoring Liverpool's injury-time winner at Antield on Monday (above) while an irate Newcastle fan nament since Hamburg last throws his replica shirt at manager Kenny Dalglish (below) when his team were still 3-0 down



SPORTING DIGEST

Marshall and misfortune compound Booth's misery

Robert Marshall, from the Bainfield club in Edinburgh, completed a disappointing day for County Antrim's Neil Booth when he won the singles title 21-18 at the British Indoor Championships in Ballymoney. Booth, who had also lost in

vesterday's fours final, found himself trailing 12-7 after 14 ends but then picked up seven shots on the next four ends to

Marshall countered with a double on the next end, and then disaster struck the 29-year-old Booth. On the next end he drove the Irishman took his own bowl out of the head and commanding 14-6 lead.

dropped a maximum four to put Marshall 18-14 ahead. A single six ends later clinched victory. Booth, along with team-mates Michael Knutt, James Talbot

and Sam Hall, lost the fours fimai 13-25 to the Scottish team of Billy Mellors, Kevin McFarlane, Jock Darling and Willie Gallo-

England's Ian Peacock, Chris Palmer and John Leeman from the Stanley club in Durham led from the opening end to take the triples with a 20-12 victory over Scotland's Mark Allison, Jim Rochargh and Stuart Pagan.

England led 9-6 after 11 ends but a three on the 12th end followed by a double gave them a

Foulds holds his ground in motion of no confidence

Geoff Foulds refused to stand down as chairman and director of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association last night despite a motion of no confidence going against him in Bristol. A resolution lodged by five players, including Stephen Hendry, the world champion, calling for Foulds to quit was easily passed at an extraordinary general meeting.

Only mue of the 39 votes cast Spencer, the previous incumbent however, remained in office, say to the Australian, Quinten ing: I will not resign on the Hann, in the first round

strength of a meeting where I believe the members were misled." Foulds could stay as chairman until 6 May when his re-election comes up automatically.

If his opponents get their way he will be ousted before the end of next month and a number of full voting members have asked the WPBSA to reconvene another EGM - which must take place within 29 days.

Stephen Hendry's chances of remaining the world No 1 for an eighth successive season were supported the successor to John bolstered at the Thailand Open in Bangkok yesterday as his who resigned last year. Foulds, main rival, John Higgins, lost 5-3

Athletics

Mentene Ottey, the Jamaican sprinter, will race in South Africa this spring. Ottey, the siver medalist in both 100 and 200 metres at the Adama Olympics, will compete in three meetings across South Africa from the end of this month. She will race in Pietersburg on 27 March Preports on 2 April and Cape Town on 8 April and Cape Town on 8

BOWES

BRITISH NEDOOR CHARPYONISHUPS (BallyISIONS), N I twinsol) Finals: Singles: Scotlerd (R
Mustrial, Bairfield) by Indian Singles: Scotlerd (R
Mustrial, Bairfield) by Indian (N Booth, Co Arvirol
21-18: Pairs: Wales (G Williams and G Jones,
Permitrolesishing) by Indian Fingles of Pairs
Cortell, Balkasy 13-10. Triplane: Fingles of Pairs
Cortell, Balkasy 13-10. Triplane: Fingles of Pairs
Cortell (M Adison, J Robburgh and S Pagan
Headwell) 20-12. Feers: Scotland (B Medion,
I Maffanine, J Dading and W Cathony Edithough)
to Ireland (M Must. J Tabbor, S Hall and N Booth
Courty Arturn) 25-13. Javier singles: Wales (W
Philips, Redisonable) in Englesis (N Cannack,
Boston) 21-18.

Neville Brown, the British middleweight, will be challenging the Franchman Hassine Cherifi for the European title at Buffins Funcosit World in Skegness on 26 April. The bout will be staged in the Colorest Heaten in the Buffins an 1,800-seat thesins in the Butlins complex, and will be Brown's second tilt at the title.

OF Northead Touride, SA): Australia 243 for 4 (45 own) Zealers Powince 1/228 for 8 (45 owns). Australia won by 15 roles.

Cycling

PARS-NGE RACE Taked stage (173km, Bourges to Monstacon, Pry 1 7 Seeds Sech Mone 47r 13mm Seed: 26 M Fegins 19:38—6; 3 F Monesson (7) GAN; 4 V Bontov (Rus) US Postat 5 J Norques Esti Cashor, 6 V Cantons (9) Post al some time. Leading overall standings: 1 L Johnson (Fr) ONCE 847:25; 2 Seeds +13cs; 3 A Carol (Rus) 100 +1; 4 M Mouri (50) CNCE +11; 5 A Balli (b) US Postel +15; 6 C Moness (Pr) Festina +16.

The Ajax midfielder Ronald de Boer hes

been voted Dutch Player of the Year by Filis testow professionals.

Sunderland are to play Ajax on Wednesday 30. July to commemorate the opening of their new 42,000 all-seet stadium at Wearmouth.

FA CARLING PROMITIES No Re-arminged the seek Wed 9 Apr. Covertory of Press. Wed 18 Apr. Werbladon v Leeds. Man 21. Apr. Coverty v Assense.

City), S. Geogliegian (Shelbourne), Morley (Shelbourne), Consider (Shelmout Rovers).

ANON BISSLEANCE COMBINATION First Division: Cystel Palace 2 Bugitton 1 for Plough Lane).

BITERNATIONAL FRENETLY (Sedia, Budge Sovietie 1 (Majorou 84) Budgets 0.

MONINDY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carting Presidensitio: Liverpool 4 Newcastie 3. FA Univoltory Tarint nound second replay: 53 Leonards 1 College Bay 2 (College Bay area to Statement, 1 feb. Leonards Presidensition 3. Aylectury 1: Degenham 3. Rectioning 0. St. Moning 1. Third Division: Carting 2 Southell 0. Div Biterious Lengtes Presiden Division: Cartington 1 Budgets Presiden Division: Charleston 1. Third Division: President Lengtes Frest Division: Participation 1. Resident Lengtes Section Universal Length Plant Division: Performant RN 2 Eastingth 0. Pontina Lengtes Section 1. Third Division: Rochfate 2 Bury 0. Lengths Cup generate-Hast Division: Parts Division: Performant Plant College Cup (Langue Cup generate-Hast). Division: Parts Division: Parts Division: Performant 1. Washond 2. Bury 0. Lengths Cup; performant 1. Septimization: Order Real Medical 2 Sentant 1. Lengths Cup; Develore: Real Medical 2 Sentant 1. Lengths Cup; Develore: 1. Real Medical (P28, P255); 2 Berrotiona (28-56); 3 Real Botts (C3-56).

PROCEEDING
WIRN'S WORLD CUP Qualities (Kenin Lumpuis)
Eighth Day: Pool & Suttastand 3 Canada 2:
South Africa 3 Poland 4: Spain 5 Mespysa 2. Fiset pool positioned 1 Spain 15pts; 2 Poland 6;
3 Metograe 7: 4 Canada 6; 5 Switzerland 5; 6
South Africa 9: 1 Pool B: Horse 5 Argantha 2. Final Pool positioned: 1 Korea 5 Argantha 2. Final Pool positioned: 1 Korea 13pts; 2 New
Zeeland 10; 3 Argentone 8; 4 Belgium 7; 5 Intend 4; 6 Belerus 0. Spain, Poland, Korea and
Argantha have qualified for the 1998 World Cup
plus are to quality from the 5/6th aboc games.
Lithtyerstry MATCH, gillion Kaynast; Orderd
Linkersty O Cambridge University 2 Old Bloss
selects Dated 2 Cambridge 2, Schools: St Edveird's Orderd 3 Moniann Comba 2.

NULL PRESSURE 2 Montreel 2 (ot); Toronto 3 Dal-las 3 (ot); Chicago 2 Vancauner 2 (ot); Ottawa 4 Phoents 1: Lee Angeles 3 Detros 3 (ot).

ice skating TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL EVENT (Collidard): Standings (offer first day): 1 Netroriands A 830e; 2 Gress Britson A 74; 3 Schollares 72; 4 Netroriands B 43; 5 Hungary 32; 8 Gress Britan

Rugby League

Bradford, the Chaffenge Cup semi-finalists, yesterday signed Paul Ander-son, the former Great Britain Under-21. son, the former Great Gritam Unice-21 prop, from their West Yorkshire neighbours Halifax. Anderson, 25, a former amateur-international who joined Halifax from Leeds in 1983, has been given a three-year contract keeping him at Odsel until the end of the 1999 season. No fee has been disclosed.

Rugby Union Wilf Wooller, the former Wales captain, Glamorgan cricketer and England Test selector, has died aged 85. He proved

himself as an outstanding all-round sportsman, winning 18 caps for Wales between 1933 and 1939 and leading Glamorgan to their first County Chambridge 1949. pionship success in 1948.

pringing success in 1948. Wales Under-21 threequarters Rhys Shorney and Tristan Davies have been named in the Welsh Students line-up to face England at Pontypridd on Friday. The University of Wales Institute, Cardiff provides seven players, including the back-row trio, Christian Evens, Geraint Lewis and Alwyn Davies.

A tightly bunched top four of the 14 yachts were starting to strench away from the rest of the field as they made their the rest of the held as they made they ago 2000-mile way to the Kerguelen Islands on the fourth leg of the 8T Challenge from Sydney to Cape Town. Still hold-ing a near-20-mile lead was Merfyn Owen's Global Tearnwork from Simon Walker (Toshiba), Andy Hindley (Save the Children) and Mike Golding (Group 4).

THAILAND OPEN (Bangkok) First round: S Hendry (Sco) bt M Flowertow (Eng) 5-0: Q Hann (Aus) bt J Higgrs (Sco) 5-3: P Ebdon (Eng) b B Jones (Eng) 5-3: J Parrott (Eng) bt G Doit (Sco) 5-4.

SERMO
serena Greulo trousenament (Costo), Japano
serena Greulo trousenament (Costo), Japano
third day of 15: Goporo (von 1, los) 2) to Maugisato (1-2); Operatus (2-1) for Minatohiri (2-1); Raje (1-2) to Desiro (1-2); Morosoni (2-1)
thi Hamanoshiri (1-2); Toombouske (2-1) to Degree (2-1); Yamason (2-1) bi Assonication (2-1);
Higmoure (2-1) to Shashiri (1-2); Aggreine
(2-1) to Koonecume (2-1); Kinglandski (1-2)
ti Remarket (1-2); Desiri (1-2) to Reservatale (1-2); Ghray (2-1) to Assonication (2-1);
Kingland (1-2) th Hotonouski (0-3); Raio (3-0) to
Rotary (0-3); Parasitesugo (1-2) to Teleptonic (2-1);
Musashirmani (3-0) to Terao (0-3); Walanoshiria
(3-0) to Rotaryoma (2-1) to 12; Tajanosmi (3-0)
to Tosmoure (1-2); Agretono (3-0) to Notonistio
(1-2); Tajanoshiria (3-0) to Tochazuma (0-3).

MENTS CHAMPIONS' CUP (Implian Wolfs, Codif), Singles, first rounds' S Side (Aus.) at F Monthia (Sin) of 6-3 -6-3; A Berasariga (Sp) bt. S. Lareau (Lon) 7-6-7-6: F Clavet (So) bt. J. Counter (US) 6-4 -6-6-4; I Wondbridge (Aus.) to D Histely (Slovak) 7-5-6-2: A O'Brent (US) bt. S Grugeres (Sp) 6-4-6-3; I Wondbridge (Aus.) to D Histely (Slovak) 7-6-6-2. A O'Brent (B) bt. S Grugeres (Sp) 6-4-6-3; D Cannot (Sp) 6-3-6-3; A Don's (Rom) bt. S Groget (F) 4-6-4-2 (ret): N Rufti (Swel) bt. A Medicegro, (Mar) 6-4-6-4; O Kuerten (Bra) et M Wondbride (Aus.) 6-4-6-4; O Kuerten (Bra) et M Wondbride (Aus.) 6-4-6-4; C Forline (Fr Int.) Stabilities (Mar) 6-4-6-4; C Forline (Fr Int.) Stabilities (Mar) 6-4-6-4; A Corretta (Sp) bt. F Medicegro, (Bas) 6-3-6-3. Torango (US) bt. M Terston, (Swe) 6-3-6-3. Torango (US) bt. M Terston, (Swe) 6-3-6-3; N Joursal (Fr) bt. A Hisber (Ber) 6-4-6-3; N Sprines (Rom) bt. Labor (Ber) 6-4-6-3; N Sprines (Rom) bt. Labor (Ber) 6-4-6-3; S Testud (Fr) bt. F Labor (Arg) 6-2-6-2.

Rain ends chance of result

Cricket

West Indies 427 and 241-4 dec: India 346 and 99-2 Match drawn

Both the West Indies and India took heart from the drawn first Test of the five-match series that ended on Monday when rain effectively washed out the final day. More than two hours were

lost, and with them the possibility of a result. India, set 323 to win after the West Indies declared, were 99 for 2 at stumps. "Obviously we would have

liked to have had the chance to press for a win," Courtney Walsh, the West Indies captain. said. "But we can't fight the

weather. These things do happen and I thought we came out of the game well."

Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian captain, said: "It is the first time since Pakistan in 1989 that we've drawn the first Test of an away series so I think it's

The form of Anil Kumble was encouraging for the Indians: the leg-spinner took eight wickets, including a five-wicket haul in the first innings. The batting of Venkata Laxman, opening the batting for the first time in Tests, Rahul Dravid and Nayan

Mongia also impressed. The biggest plus for the West Indies was man of the match Franklyn Rose. The 25-year-old took seven wickets on his Test debut and unstaged his more il-

lustrious pace partners. dies is the fitness of Ian Bishop. He left the field towards the end of Monday complaining of pain in his right leg. The second Test begins in Port-of-Spain. Trinidad on Friday.

NONA - First Inclines 346 (N Monga 78, V Lar-man 64; F A Rose 6-100).

Extrae (lb1 nb5) Bouling: Ambrose 6-3-7-0: Walsh 8-3-7-1 (nb.2); Rose 9-1-23-1 (nb.3); Hoper 16-6 27-0; Chanderpail 6-0-18-0; Lina 3-0-16-0; Umpires: 5 Bucknor (Mi) and Mi

Alphand fastest in practice

four compatriots as the quintet

Skiing

Luc Alphand produced the fastest time in the first training run for today's men's downhill at the World Cup Finals in Vail, Colorado.

"I made lots of mistakes on the bottom, but I have the best time so I must be doing something well," the Frenchman said after recording a time of 1min 39.94sec down the 2.704metre (1.7-mile) course on Vail

Mountain yesterday. Austria's Patrick Ortlieb was only one hundredth of a second slower and just edged ahead of

attempt to put behind them the disappointing performance by the Austrian team at the world championships in Sestriere. Italy, Josef Strobl, Hannes Trinkl. Werner Franz and Roland Assinger were hard on Or- events in Vail, was 10th fastest tlieb's heels, with Italy's Krist- in the first downhill training run ian Ghedina was seventh fastest with a time of 1:40.52.

at 1:40.25. maintain his momentum in his quest to become the first speed

specialist to claim the overall World Cup. Alphand holds a 117-point lead over the 1994 World Cup champion, Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt. The all-rounder Aamodt.

who will be competing in all four

ALPINE WORLD CUP FINALS (Vall) Men's Alphand has dominated the downhill season with four wins and has easily secured the World Cup for that discipline. However, the Frenchman is determined to do well in Vail to maintain his momentum in his

United dream a nightmare for Hoddle

Football PETE WHITFIELD

The perennial club v country dispute will make an unwelcome re-appearance if Mansight of their European dream. This season's European Cup final is due to be played on 28 May - three days before England face Poland in Chorzow in a crucial World Cup qualifying

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, will be unwilling to do without and Philip and Gary Neville and David Beck-

ham, but the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, will almost certainly name at least the latter two in his international squad and would ideally want them in the England camp for the week preceding the Poland match.

The Football Association said yesterday that the matter will be discussed nearer the time but one thing is certain; the date of the Poland-England match cannot be changed

"It's a question for the two managers to decide on further down the line," a spokeswoman said. "We're not really able to comment on it at present as it's not yet a reality. It could be

discussed before the [Euro-pean Cup] semi-final."

There was better news for United when the club learned that Peter Schmeichel will not face racism charges arising from his November confrontation with Arsenal's Ian Wright.

The FA chief executive. Graham Kelly, has sent identical open letters to both players in which he implores them to make a public statement of conciliation, on the day Schmeichel learned he would not face a criminal charge for alleged racist remarks.

Kelly strongly implies that, if can be a power for bringing the the Arsenal striker and the game together, not dividing it.

Manchester United goalkeep er agree, they can avoid FA dis-

ciplinary action too. In his letter to Schmeichei. Kelly writes: "I have to decide what is best for English football. I have to be aware that both you and Ian Wright are public figures, idolised by millions of football fans at home and abroad. Your example is vitally

important. That is why I ask you, in the interests of the game as a whole, to make a public statement of reconciliation with Ian Wright as soon as possible. In doing so, you

"In current circumstances, 3 drawn-out disciplinary procedure with uncertain results would not be helpful. I want to avoid it unless you and Ian

Wright leave me no alternative.
"I believe I understand your strong feelings about what has happened. But English football is bigger and more important

than both of you, and me.
"The example you set by putting the past behind you in a public way can only be heneficial. You are well aware of the issues involved. Please recognise your responsibilities and respond urgently to my request." Television pictures appeared

to show Schmeichel mouthing insults at Wright during the 16 November fixture between the sides at Old Trafford, won 1-0 by United However, the Dane denied making any racial remarks and the Crown Prosecution Service yesterday

decided not to take any further

action against him. The two men found themselves in conflict again last month, when United beat Arsenal 2-1 at Highbury. They had to be restrained at the end of that game, during which Wright made a controversial challenge on the United goalkeeper as they went

tor, Maurice Watkins, said Schmeichel was delighted that no action would be taken.

He said: "Peter has been told the Crown Prosecution Service won't be pressing charges. He always believed this would be the outcome but he is just pleased to have it confirmed. Peter is not a racist and never will be.

Ferguson is assessing Gadi Bromer, the Israeli international on trial at this week. The £2m-rated Maccabi Tel Aviv defender, a United fan of long standing has forsaken winning another cap for Israel this

Ferguson. In spending the week with the double win-ners, Bromer misses his country's friendly international with

Sweden. The 23-year-old Bromer has set his heart on a permanent move to United. He said: "I don't know whether I am good enough to be a part of Manchester United but my target is to become a United player. I don't think I am going to have any problems either physically or technically. It's all new to me but generally I don't see any

More football, page 27

Proud day for Pipe the champion

RICHARD EDMONDSON

The run began at Stratford-on-Avon and ended gloriously at National Hunt racing's greatest theatre yesterday. Make A Stand led all the way in the Champion Hurdle to reward the partnership of Tony McCoy, the champion jockey, and Martin Pipe, the champion trainer. Cheltenham had been the stage for a winners' tale.

Make A Stand's season had begun innocuously enough in Warwickshire in October, but a clue to his future success came in the manner of victory. He ran so purposefully from the front that it was easy to imagine the ahattoir wagon was behind him.

Further handicap wins were gathered in similar manner, but when the gelding arrived for combat vesterday there were plenty willing to venture that neither Cheltenham nor the Champion Hurdle was suitable for front-runners.

An additional caveat was that Make A Stand was still a novice who had never before attempted an assignment as stiff as this. They said similar things about Sherpa Tenzing when he set out with his packed lunch

The diminutive chestnut with a white-splashed face looked like the regimental mascot in the parade ring among his more brutish opponents. Else-where, Collier Bay, the champion, was nodding along like a chicken at the trot, while Large

Action circled with a catwalk sway, his head lowered as if searching for change. The two seasoned and fancied horses were soon picking up the

Large Action was the first to go, pulled up after two flights when Jamie Osborne detected there was a defect in the chassis beneath him. Collier Bay resented going firmer than he prefers and was brought to a halt by Graham Bradley after

By that time Make A Stand

It was hard to believe this was the same horse who had been might smart a little bit.

Fifty yards from home Mc-Coy leant back to administer a stroke of the whip but swiftly realised it would not be needed. The sticks were up behind him as if the Bengal Lancers were

had been skipping away in front for some time, with all the concern of a member of Bo Peep's flock. At the top of the hill, McCoy gave his conveyance time to fill the lungs and then started his dash for

gelded as a three-year-old because he had become so muiish. Connections - and the gelding had lost his most precious ones - were surprised that their charge took some time to recover, but others may be of the opinion that lopping off of the testicles is a manoeuvre that

in pursuit.

The Irishman turned his movement into a flourish of jubilation and surged forward for a five-length success, break-



Tony McCoy (striped cap) steers Make A Stand to the last and victory in the Champion Hurdle at the Cheitenham Festival yesterday

dles - which Shadow Leader had set just 75 minutes earlier

Behind were the Irish pairing you with his speed. of Theatreworld and Space You always hope he'll stop. McCoy's debriefing suggest-Trucker, and the rider of the Even today, after the last, I ed he had been almost inci-

ing the course record for two runner-up later reported on thought he might, and you can dental to the partnership. He miles and 110 yards over hurthe task the pack had been factory get within six lengths of him, but said: "It's the greatest feeling ing. Norman Williamson said: "He [Make A Stand] is a true champion. He just annihilates

the effort ends your chance. Whether you take him on early or late it's the same problem,

he cooks you."

when a horse makes all the running like that. He measures every hurdle up himself. You just have to give him a little bit of rein and go down and, squeeze him. At the last flight

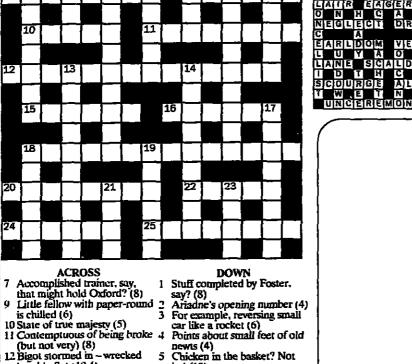
The little horse was led in by the little man, and Martin Pipe seemed to forget for a moment that he is in possession of a limp. The trainer, who also won with

Photograph: David Ashdown down the back he came up so Or Royal, described it as "a great day" and only the iron hearts could be grudge him it as he had lost two horses on the corresponding card 12 months

previously.

Today's Cheltenham card.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



not using the first person? (8) 18 Interpreter, last to be advised 21 Response from the chorus (4) 23 Track of a wader (4) Celebrations cut short at Finnegan's wake

It's a quarter to eleven on a dazzling spring day and Ken Mercer is pitching his stall in front of Tattersalls. Ken is from Manchester, and concentrates his bookmaking on the northern courses, but he has not missed a Cheltenham Festival since 1952 and is not about to start now.

"For the it's the biggest thing in racing," he says. "Bigger than Ascot. At Ascot you get the toffs. The scene here is for Not that Ken looks very

happy. Like those around him. he wears an expression of studied consternation, and if this is the best day of the racing year nobody is letting on. What is he worried about? "Favourite," he replies with venom.

Two and a half hours later Ken is working his territory. At 72, he cuts a wiry figure, not given to the excited gestures that characterise the younger of his breed. The impression of a venerable bird on his perch is confirmed when he calls out "Eee-de-wan-de-veill," a cry that would mystify David Attenborough (on the fifth rendition it becomes just decipherable as "3-1 the field").

Behind him, Ken's

four-man team are busy as the money pours in on the first race. Out front Ken is taking a lot of punts on Shadow Leader, but over the phone, where the bets come from the rails and the ring, the big money

Matt Tench

watches a veteran bookie ply his trade at the track

"There's fortunes coming in on him," says Peter on the ledger, as he marks down in-dividual bets of £850 and £1,200.

With a course of hungry punters to satisfy, the first race is traditionally one of the

biggest in terms of turnover and by the start there is unmistak-able concern among Ken's team at the prospect of what would be a Finnegan's wake. As we watch the race on the



is mounting on the Ken Mercer: 'For me it's the blegest favourite. Finnegan's thing in racing. The scene here is for be such a bad Chel-Hollow.

Photograph: David Ashdown tenham after all.

big screen Ken provides an intermittent commentary. "It's cruising, the favourite," he

mutters grimly. "It's camering."
"Oh shit," sighs Peter. Then, three fences from home: "Gone. It's on the floor. The favourite's on the floor,'

Ken cries delightedly. The joy is short-lived, though The demise of Finnegan's Hollow allows Shadow Leader to win, the only other borse on which Ken would have lost money. The first race, and several thousand down. Welcome

to Cheltenham. Ken gets off his perch and lights a cigarette. A queue of punters eight deep gathers to collect their winnings. There is

> Mulligan, the biggest favourite of the day. This time the gamblers in person and those on the phone agree. Mulligan is a certainty. As the horses set off the atmosphere is palpably tense. If Mulligan wins they are in trouble. When Mulligan falls Ken is silent, but there is a

involuntarily. When Or Royal wins Ken allows a minute smile to pass across his face before it resumes its normal demeanour of resigned persecution. The banker has gone the way of Barings and suddenly the afternoon feels a little better. Perhaps it won't

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS no respite either, with the next race featuring glint in his eye as he looks quickly around and clenches his fist CHRONOMAT Close cooperation with pilots and aviation experts es tue improving its chronograph designs all the time, somet features a selfwinding mechanical movement.

is chilled (6) 10 State of true majesty (5)

humble flat (10.4)

22 Shy attempt (5)

15 Reduce tax of foreign trade

exports, to begin with (6) 16 Viscount, with first house,

making changes (6)
18 Get into the hit-parade and suffer much criticism? (3,3,8)
20 Ready money, just for goar's wool? (8)

24 Loud orchestra-founder, re-

tired, is an Egyptian peasant

25 Unyielding drive with club (4-

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, J Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL and printed at Mirror Colour Prost, St Back issues available (rom Hig

Nechanian L. March 1997 ed as a germapaper with the Post Offic

Chicken in the basket? Not

he! (10) Goldfinger, perhaps, upset-

ting Moneypenny (6)
8 Border decoration giving pain after slight cough (3-6)

13 Keep tight grip (10) 14 Have they finished with wild

rag dates, around iniversity

17 Hood's Retreat from novelist

of Jane Eyre's marriage (6)

19 Reportedly, the fat of the

.

مكذا من الأصل